Torres said he is ready to justify purchases, travel. PAGE 2
3,000-plus claimants get $35M unemployment aid. PAGE 3

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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

75¢

TINIAN BEACH CLEANUP
Seabees assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian work with residents to help clean up Unai Dankulo Beach (Long Beach) on Tinian last July 18.

Story on Page 6

U.S. NAVY/MARCUS HENLEY

3 more passengers test positive

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three more passengers have tested positive for the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, bringing the CNMI's total number of confirmed cases to 45.

The 43rd case was confirmed last Saturday, Aug. 1, while cases No. 44 and No. 45 were confirmed yesterday, Aug. 2. The 43rd case is a returning resident that was identified through the travelers' screening protocol. The 44th and 45th cases are also returning residents, but were identified on the fifth day after arriving on Saipan.

According to Governor's COVID-19 Task Force statement, all affected individuals are safely in quarantine and are in the designated isolating area where the Common-

See 3 MORE on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Aug. 1, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	354	5	359
Recovered	297	7	304
Active	45	5	50
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			22,018

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	42	3	45
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			11,759**

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt.*

**Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

Application open for cannabis license

The publication of the certification and adoption of proposed rules and regulations of the CNMI Cannabis Commission means that applications for commercial Cannabis Licenses and non-commercial Homegrown Marijuana Registry may now officially begin.

The commission officially adopted the proposed cannabis rules and regulations during their meeting

See LICENSE on **Page 4**

'PSS needs at least $37M to keep schools open'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System could possibly receive an estimated $20-million budget for the upcoming fiscal year but, according to PSS Financial and Budget consultant Ed Tenorio, PSS needs at least $37 million to keep all schools open.

PSS has asked the central government for a $40-million budget, but Tenorio said the Governor's Office could propose just $20.6 million for PSS, considering that the projected revenue available in fiscal year 2021 for government appropriation is $82.6 million

However, Tenorio said PSS would need at least $37.8 mil-

See PSS on **Page 4**

Kimo Rosario leaves PSS

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kimo Rosario, the Public School System's acting Finance director and associate commissioner of Administration, is bidding farewell to PSS after five years of service.

During a special Board of Education meeting last Tues-

See KIMO on **Page 4**

INSIDE

BUSINESS
The Saipan World Resort has again extended its Meals To Go promotion.

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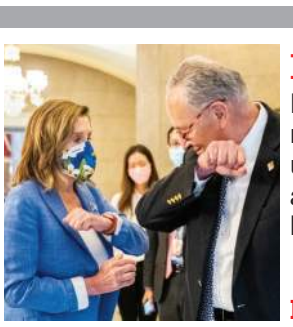

NATION
Pressure mounts to restore supplemental unemployment benefit and send funding to help schools reopen.

PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
The pandemic has resurrected all kinds of vintage pastimes and even the blockbusters are retro.

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Torres said he is ready to justify purchases, travel expenses

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday that he is ready to justify his reimbursement requests for purchases and travels "when the time is right," in response to the House minority bloc's report Thursday of the governor's purchases and first-class travels, which they described as "questionable" or "illegal".

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Torres acknowledged the investigations being done by the House Special Committee for Fiscal Review of Executive Expenditures committee, and affirmed that he will make all the needed justifications.

"They're going to be going through a lot of scrutiny on different purchases and stuff. I will be happy to make those justifications when the time is right. I do know that all the reimbursement that I've done was in the best interest. …Whatever their concerns will be, I'll be happy to make the justification on the reimbursements moving forward," he said.

At the committee's meeting last Thursday, minority lawmakers gave a glimpse of their findings by highlighting a travel to the U.S. mainland that Torres did in 2018.

At the same radio news briefing, Finance Secretary David Atalig said that he received a subpoena from the House committee for more documents. He said they will seeking legal advice to protect personal and private information. "We will comply. I have up to Aug. 4 to submit the documents and I assure I will comply [with] the subpoena," Atalig added.

Torres

First class travel

In his presentation Thursday, Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) focused on Torres' travel to Boise, Idaho in December 2018. Reportedly, Torres was supposed to meet with then-Idaho governor Clement Leroy "Butch" Otter to discuss educational partnerships and national priorities with the Department of the Interior.

Propst noted that the governor travelled from Saipan to Guam on economy, Guam to Honolulu on business, Honolulu to San Francisco on first class, San Francisco to Boise on first class, and on the return to Saipan from Boise, Torres flew first class or business class. The timeline of the governor's trip was also highlighted, given it was less than two months after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI.

"Many of us were still without power and water. Hundreds of families were still without a roof over their head. Some of them were fortunate enough to have a tent. Life was very difficult, but the governor felt it was important for him to leave on Dec. 19," said Propst.

The Office of the Public Auditor recently submitted to the Legislature a draft report on the audit of the CNMI government's travel policy, which states that despite the law clearly stating that traveling first class and business class is prohibited, that there is evidence indicating that first or business class tickets were purchased in the past four years.

"This travel first class was prohibited, and is illegal. By law, that is not an opinion. That is a fact," said Propst.

Expenditures

The minority bloc also brought attention to purchases made during the trip, as well as some food items, among others. According to Propst, Torres claimed these for office use when they are "clearly for personal consumption."

An alcohol purchase for a bottle of Blue Label Scotch valued at $170.10, made in January 2019 at T-Galleria that, on the governor's request for reimbursement, was listed as a gift for Guam Sen. Wil Castro. When asked about it, Castro acknowledged in an email to Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) that he hosted an "unofficial" reception at his home, attended by Torres, for volunteers and officials in January 2019, following the coordination of donated relief items to the CNMI due to Super Typhoon Yutu. However, he noted that "whatever was brought by the governor, I assure you that it was not delivered to me as a personal gift."

Sablan also stated that records show receipts for meetings with unnamed investors, business partners, dignitaries, and other individuals who are not named, and that there are no descriptions of the public purpose or the nature of the meetings, that justify them.

Lions Club cleanup yields 18 trash bags of garbage

The Saipan Marianas Lions Club did back-to-back Sunday cleanups at the Garapan Fishing Base and the Inos Peace Park and collected 19 trash bags of garbage.

SMLC president Ladyvir Canape said the hope is that these two consecutive Sunday cleanups would be the start of a regular activity for the group. "We are hoping to do this every Sunday. Our next location will be at the Laly 4 beach park in Chalan Kanoa."

The club has also signed up for the International Coastal Cleanup for the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. Its adopted area is the Garapan Fishing Base.

"This is our home. The CNMI is so uniquely beautiful, and we owe it to ourselves to take very good care of our place. We believe that if we do it consistently, other people in our community will see and determine themselves that it is a good deed," said SMLC secretary Judy Mendieta.

Additionally, SMLC has an annual back-to-school project. They have set up a Gofundme account in order to buy school supplies. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

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3,000-plus claimants get $35M unemployment aid

The CNMI Department of Labor announced Friday that approximately $35 million in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation have been disbursed to more than 3,000 eligible and approved claimants, as of July 31, 2020.

About 4,000 additional claims, both online and in paper, continue to be adjudicated and processed for benefits.

Benefits processing

All PUA/FPUC claims are processed in the order they were received. If all eligibility requirements are met and no disqualification is in effect, claims are batched for processing. CNMI DOL and the CNMI Department of Finance are working in tandem to ensure benefits payments are disbursed every week.

Benefits disbursements

Depending on the nature of how claimants would like to receive their payments, disbursements can be made out within 1-2 business days (via direct deposit) or 7-10 calendar days (via mailed check). CNMI DOL encourages claimants to opt for direct deposit payments when applying for PUA/FPUC.

Important note

CNMI DOL would like to remind the public that all information regarding its programs and unemployment assistance is vetted for accuracy before transmittal to the CNMI Office of the Governor.

Continue to follow updates from CNMI DOL through local media partners and through the CNMI Office of the Governor's Facebook page and website at www.governor.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

'Finance not holding PUA checks back'

The Department of Finance has no reason to hold any funds related to Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, according to Secretary David Atalig.

Responding to comments that Finance is keeping the funds in despite the many approved PUA applications by the CNMI Department of Labor, Atalig maintains that the turnaround is quick when they process what they receive from Labor.

"We understand people need their funds, people need their money. I certainly could use the funds circulating in our economy so I can generate some [business gross revenue] and have that economic activity in our community," he said. "There's no reason for me to hold back any money. …Please be aware when I do draw down federal funds, there are rules that I need to spend it out within 72 hours. We can't just hold these funds. We draw down when we expect, and we try to be as accurate. [We do] not draw down a full amount because I cannot use that money for anything else."

Atalig also explained that they cannot just randomly send checks to anyone, and that they need information from the Department of Labor.

"No data from that website portal or those applications come to my office, and so I am not able to release funds without even knowing who is applying. Once we get the information to release funds, and how much, we release it," he said.

At the close of July, approximately $35 million in PUA and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation have been disbursed by the government to over 3,000 eligible and approved claimants.

"For the people that are waiting, I know they're frustrated. I know they're anxious. We are doing our best to get it out," he added. ***(Iva Maurin)***

Man arrested for alleged sex assault of a minor

On Monday, July 20, 2020, at about 2:25pm, the Department of Public Safety received a report of a sexual assault case on a minor through the Department of Youth Services. The suspect in the case was identified as Rudolph Rudolph.

Rudolph

On Wednesday, July 19, 2020, at about 3:43pm, Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio signed and authorized the issuance of an arrest warrant for Rudolph for the charges of sexual assault of a minor in the first degree and sexual assault of a minor in the second degree, with a cash bail set at $50,000.

Rudolph was arrested on Thursday, July 30, 2020, at approximately 10:06am in Chalan Kanoa. ***(PR)***

Continued limited court operations due to COVID-19

The CNMI Supreme Court has issued another administrative order that sets the Judiciary's COVID-19 precautionary measures and limited operations until Sept. 4, 2020.

Order No. 5, issued Friday by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos, is basically similar to order No. 4 issued last July 2, with the justices noting that the CNMI continues to be at Level Blue, which permits the gradual opening of the CNMI to travelers and allows for gatherings of no more than 25 people in a single space.

The justices said the evolving circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and the demand for judicial services continue to warrant resuming particular operations. This means theGuma' Hustisia or the House of Justice in Susupe, Kotten Tinian, Centron Hustisia on Rota, Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, Drug Court in Chalan Kanoa, Office of Adult Probation Supervision Satellite Office in Susupe, and the Law Revision Commission in Susupe will be open for limited operations.

The justices urged judges to use readily available technologies, including electronic filing, teleconferencing, and video conferencing. In-person court proceedings shall be limited as much as possible.

A number of employees will continue to work within the courthouses and judicial facilities on a limited basis, while other staff are allowed to continue to telework at designated sites.

At the Supreme Court, all e-filing and service deadline and procedures remain in effect.

The justices said third quarter oral arguments scheduled between Aug. 17 to 28, 2020, will proceed as scheduled.

At the Superior Court, the justices said all matters shall be heard telephonically or by video conference and that the judge presiding over a matter may schedule proceedings requiring in-person appearance.

Bench trials may be heard where practicable, while jury trials may resume at the discretion of the judge presiding over the matter.

The cashier's office will continue with regular business hours.

Pertaining to records, all requests for transcripts, document processing, or record certification in the clerk of the Superior Court, Family Court Division, Office of Adult Probation, Drug Court, and the Commonwealth Recorder's Office will be accepted by email to Superior.Court@NMIJudiciary.com.

If the electronic submission of documents is impossible, documents may be submitted by U.S, registered mail at "CNMI Superior Court P.O. Box 500307 Saipan, MP 96950."

Courtroom occupants are limited to no more than 25, wearing face masks, and practicing social distancing of no less than 6 feet. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SAIPAN COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY

· Teacher : **Keith Tessen** · Classes Begin : **August 17th, Monday**

[Monday & Wednesday]

4:00 - 5:00	Level 1A Critical Reading and Essay Writing
5:00 - 6:00	SAT Prep : Reading Test
6:00 - 7:00	SAT Prep : Writing Test
7:00 - 8:00	Level 3 Critical Reading and Essay Writing
8:00 - 9:00	Senior Seminar

[Ellen's Classes : Grades 5 - 12]

4:00 - 5:00	Class A	6:00 - 7:00	Class C
5:00 - 6:00	Class B		

[Tuesday & Thursday]

4:00 - 5:00	Level 1B Critical Reading and Essay Writing
5:00 - 6:00	Level 2 Critical Reading and Essay Writing
6:00 - 7:00	SAT Prep : Essay
7:00 - 8:00	A.P. United States History
8:00 - 9:00	College-Level Critical Reading and Essay Writing

[Ellen's Classes : Grades 5 - 12]

5:00 - 6:00	Class D	6:00 - 7:00	Class E

NEVER BEFORE HAS GETTING FINANCIAL AID BEEN SO IMPORTANT TO COLLEGE APPLICANTS

The economic recession caused by the pandemic has harmed thousands of Saipan families. For families who will send their sons and daughters to college next year, the financial pinch is especially acute, and obtaining financial aid is more important than ever. With 17 years of college advising experience, I have helped more than 300 students realize their college dreams. Here are the services I offer:

- **Help with choosing which schools to apply to**
- **Personalized help with the application process, including Early Action & Early Decision**
- **Personalized help with all financial aid applications, including the FAFSA and CSS Profile**
- **Help with obtaining the most financial aid possible, especially scholarships and grants**
- **I read & edit all essays and applications (I have edited more than 1,000 college application essays.)**

My students have been accepted into Ivy League schools, Stanford, UC-Berkeley, Williams, Carnegie-Melon, Emory, Pepperdine, and many other top schools, often while paying little or no tuition. Over the past several years my students have averaged more than $23,000 per year in scholarships and grants and more than $25,500 when low-interest loans are included. In other words, the typical senior who has received my help received approximately $100,000 in financial aid over four years of college.

Contact us at
keithallentessen@gmail.com
or call 285-1669

Don't trust your child's college career to amateurs; trust your child to Keith Tessen, Saipan's **professional** college counselor. Call 285-1669 or email us at keithallentessen@gmail.com to find out more about how we can help you achieve your dreams.

- Located in Brother's Acupuncture Building, 2nd floor on Middle Road next to TransAmerica

DFEMS chief to testify in Rota mayor's case

The federal court has summoned Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis James C. Mendiola to appear and testify in court today, Monday, in connection with the case against Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge and Clerk of Court Heather L. Kennedy issued the summons for Mendiola last Friday.

According to court documents, the U.S. Marshal Service served the subpoena on Mendiola's court-appointed counsel Bruce Berline on Friday.

An in-camera hearing in the Ataligs' case will be held today in District Court. That means the proceeding will be carried out in private or in the absence of the public or media for the purposes of sensitivity.

Efraim Atalig, through counsel, requested the federal court to determine prior to the trial whether Mendiola has a valid basis for asserting the Fifth Amendment privilege if he is called to testify at trial. The U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment protects individuals from being forced to incriminate themselves.

The U.S. government did not oppose Efraim Atalig's request.

Mendiola used to serve as Rota DFEMS deputy commissioner. He was among the eight Rota officials, including Efraim Atalig, that the Office of the Attorney General had charged with misconduct in public office before the Superior Court.

The OAG, however, later dropped the case against Mendiola. The OAG can no longer re-file the charge against him.

The Superior Court case was filed over an alleged Republican rally in Guam in June 2018 that Efraim Atalig attended allegedly in the guise of a legitimate government trip.

Mendiola is not charged in Atalig's case in federal court. He is running as a Republican for a Rota senator's seat in the upcoming Nov. 3 election.

The jury trial of Efraim and Evelyn Atalig, will finally commence at the new U.S. Courthouse building in Gualo Rai on Aug. 11 at 10am.

The charges in District Court against Efraim and Evelyn Atalig involve at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are being charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'REIMAGINE, REENGAGE AND REOPEN'

PSS conducts successful Virtual Leadership Institute

The Public School System held its first-ever virtual leadership institute on July 30 in line with its class reopening plan to ensure a safe and smooth Sept. 8 reopening of classes in the Commonwealth.

PSS is implementing a hybrid approach when it opens the new school year, which is a combination of remote and face-to-face instruction.

There were 90 participants in the virtual training sessions. They include the school district's key management team, CNMI Board of Education members, school principals and vice principals, program leaders, and aspiring leaders.

"This was a…historic event for PSS," said Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada in a statement.

In welcoming participants during the day-long training, Ada said that education leaders "must seize the opportunity to reflect on what has been learned, and what matters most" in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"[This is about] education reimagined. As leaders we must rise up and be aware of the change [and challenges]," Ada said. "How will we choose to respond? We have the opportunity to help students maintain the level of learning; we have the opportunity to creatively manage the issues while building a bridge to a reimagined education system."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PSS

From Page 1

lion to keep all public schools open and to pay for existing personnel costs and a bare minimum for operational expenses. With an estimated $20.6 million to be allocated to PSS, that would leave the system short by $17 million.

To prepare to possibly receive only $20.6 million starting Oct. 1, Tenorio outlined a few budget scenarios for fiscal year 2021 during the Board of Education meeting last Tuesday, chief of which would require prioritizing personnel costs but still laying off some people.

Ultimately, if PSS ends up with $20.6 million only, Tenorio said PSS must maintain the current personnel expenses for elementary schools, at $11.9 million for 274 full-time employees; middle schools, $6.13 million for 137 FTEs; special education, $1.4 million for 70 FTEs; and $981,000 for the Office of Pupil Transportation.

PSS would also need to implement an across-the-board cut of more than 45% and require a reduction in force involving over 300 personnel.

After consulting with Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada and PSS Federal Programs manager Tim Thornburgh, Tenorio said they identified $10.8 million in potential revenue, including $7 million in carryover funds from the federal Education Stabilization Fund in fiscal year 2020; an estimated $1.8 million reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency; an estimated $1.5 million in unencumbered balance from the fiscal year 2020 general fund; and an estimated $500,000 in indirect cost reimbursement from FEMA completed projects.

Tenorio said the collaboration between the BOE, the education commissioner, school administrators, program managers, and all stakeholders is highly encouraged to ease the challenges and the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Fiscal year 2021 will be extremely challenging, not only financially, but as a system in general," Tenorio said.

Right now, PSS is looking at a hybrid mix of online classes and in-person instruction this coming school year.

3 MORE

From Page 1

wealth Healthcare Corp. can monitor them. Also, CHCC has conducted initial contact tracing for the individuals' most immediate contact, which includes passengers on the same flight, family members, friends, and associates.

Of the 21 cases that have been confirmed positive through travel screening, 18 of them are from the U.S., while one of them is from a U.S. territory.

Also, Warren Villagomez, who heads the COVID-19 task force, emphasized that they don't want to promote any use of alcohol or drugs at the quarantine sites, which is why the task force has been limiting food and alcohol from being delivered to the residents that are in quarantine at Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

Villagomez added that it's in their policy that drugs and alcohol are not allowed in the quarantine site. He added that if an individual is caught with alcohol or drugs, there will be consequences.

"It's not about being in prison, it's not about limiting their freedom, but when you allow alcohol, you're setting uncontrolled guidelines," Villagomez said. "We really see it as another risk to the process. We want to have a safe…process. So, you know, we don't want to be dealing with situations that's not necessary."

He pointed out that the revised protocol requires only a five-day quarantine and will only become longer if a person's test turns positive.

Under the protocol, all arriving passengers are immediately brought to the quarantine site and are tested. They are again tested on the fifth day of their stay.

LICENSE

From Page 1

on June 23, 2020. The certification of the cannabis rules and regulations was published in the *Commonwealth Register* Volume 42, Number 7 on July 28, 2020.

The commission will begin accepting commercial and noncommercial applications tomorrow, Aug. 4, 2020, marking the official opening of the cannabis industry within the Commonwealth.

Submitting your application:

Applicants applying on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota can submit their completed Cannabis License application package or Homegrown Marijuana Registry application with official payment certification and receipt of payment at the following locations from Tuesday through Thursday, 9am – 4pm:

Saipan applicants:
Division of Permitting and Licensing
Commonwealth Casino Commission
Unit 13 and 14F Springs Plaza
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Tinian applicants:
Customer Service Intake Window
Department of Commerce – Tinian
San Jose Village, Tinian

Rota applicants:
Administrative Office
Department of Land and Natural Resources – Rota
Liyo, Songsong Village, Rota

Cannabis license application

Depending on the type of license issued by the commission, a licensed cannabis business will be authorized to commercially cultivate, manufacture, store, distribute, allowing for onsite consumption, or sell marijuana to a person 21 years of age or older within the Commonwealth.

Currently, interested applicants can apply for the following commercial cannabis licenses: Marijuana Producer License (Class 1, 2, or 3), Marijuana Micro Producer License, Marijuana Wholesale License, Marijuana Retailer License, and Marijuana Lounge License (Class 1 or 2).

Applicants are expected to complete the Cannabis License application, provide all the necessary information required in the associated License Type Appendix, and pay the nonrefundable application fee prior to submitting their application package.

Homegrown Marijuana Registry application:

With the official opening of the Homegrown Marijuana Registry, individuals who are 21 years of age or older are mandated by Commonwealth law to register for a Homegrown Marijuana Registry Card in order to produce, process, keep, or store homegrown marijuana at a household or cultivation site for noncommercial purposes.

The application fee is $75 per person and applicants must pay the fee prior to submitting the application. Registrants whose application has met all the necessary compliance requirements set forth in the Cannabis Act and Cannabis Regulations will be issued a Homegrown Marijuana Registry card, which shall be renewable annually.

Where to obtain the applications

All applications and other resources are available to be downloaded on the CNMI Governor's official website: https://governor.gov.mp/priorities/cannabis/

Application inquiry contact

All inquiries regarding the CNMI Cannabis Commission applications should be emailed to the following contacts:

- Saipan: info@cnmicannabis.org
- Tinian: cannabistinian@gmail.com
- Rota: thomas.cnmicannabiscomm@gmail.com ***(PR)***

KIMO

From Page 1

day, BOE members and PSS staff thanked Rosario for his five years of service.

Rosario officially left PSS last July 31 and will start working for the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. as its Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program manager starting today.

BOE and PSS commended Rosario for leaving a legacy of personal empowerment, altruism, and equitable opportunities for all students.

"Rosario dedicated five years and eight months of passion, commitment, and leadership through various capacities he has held in pursuit of public service to over 10,000 students, school leadership and central staff of the CNMI PSS and the Commonwealth as a whole," said PSS and BOE.

Rosario said he was touched and moved by this recognition but said he felt that he did not do anything extraordinary during his tenure at PSS. "In fact, it was the wonderful PSS staff, many of whom work in the background and with whom I had the honor and privilege to work with that really helped me succeed. They are the true movers and shakers. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the PSS family. I will truly miss working, learning, and growing with this fine group of highly educated, seasoned, and knowledgeable individuals," he said.

Rosario started working for PSS as program manager of its Office of Pupil Transportation on Sept. 22, 2014. He became chief officer for Procurement and Supply of PSS on Feb. 28, 2017, and its interim director for finance from Nov. 25, 2019, to June 3, 2020. He served as interim associate commissioner for Administrative Services from June 6, 2020, to June 15, 2020. From June 16, 2020, to July 31, 2020, he was the associate commissioner of Administration.

BOE member Andrew Orsini thanked Rosario for his service to PSS and his collaboration with education leaders.

BOE member MaryLou Ada said thanks on behalf of more than 1,000 PSS employees and more than 10,000 students,. "Thank you for your perseverance and tenacity and for hanging in there with us to work with us," she said.

BOE member Philip Mendiola-Long said he will miss Rosario's "real talk" and no-holds barred approach in putting the students' welfare first. "He doesn't really have soft words when our kids are at risk. He is always setting the board straight in what we need to do."

BOE teacher representative Paul Miura expressed appreciation to Rosario for working with the board, especially amid a financial crisis.

BOE chair Janice Tenorio thanked Rosario for doing an outstanding job.

USCIS increases fees by weighted average of 20%

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced Friday a final rule that adjusts fees for certain immigration and naturalization benefit requests to ensure U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services recovers its costs of services.

Unlike most government agencies, USCIS is fee funded. Fees collected and deposited into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account fund nearly 97% of USCIS' budget.

As required by federal law, USCIS conducted a comprehensive biennial fee review and determined that current fees do not recover the cost of providing adjudication and naturalization services. DHS is adjusting USCIS fees by a weighted average increase of 20% to help recover its operational costs. Current fees would leave the agency underfunded by about $1 billion per year.

The rule accounts for increased costs to adjudicate immigration benefit requests, detect and deter immigration fraud, and thoroughly vet applicants, petitioners and beneficiaries. The rule also supports payroll, technology and operations to accomplish the USCIS mission. The rule removes certain fee exemptions, includes new nominal fees for asylum applicants, and reduces fee waivers to help recover the costs of adjudication.

This final rule also encourages online filing by providing a $10 reduction in the fee for applicants who submit forms online that are electronically available from USCIS. Online filing is the most secure, efficient, cost-effective and convenient way to submit a request with USCIS.

USCIS last updated its fee structure in December 2016 by a weighted average increase of 21%.

For a full list of changes and a complete table of final fees, see the final rule (https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2020-16389.pdf).

This final rule is effective Oct. 2, 2020. Any application, petition, or request postmarked on or after this date must include payment of the new, correct fees established by this final rule. ***(USCIS)***

Federal match requirement waiver allows CNMI to use $366K for local infrastructure

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior has approved the redirection of $366,000 in fiscal year 2019 Capital Improvement Program funding provided last year to the CNMI to meet federal matching requirements to now be used for infrastructure projects in the territory.

"Federal Emergency Management Agency projects require a local cost share, even from small territories, which is often untenable. While [the Office of Insular Affairs'] CIP funding is flexible and can be used to meet these federal requirements, having to do so often diverts funding from important shovel-ready, infrastructure projects," said Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech. "By waiving the local cost share requirement for FEMA assistance related to Super Typhoon Yutu, the Trump administration has opened the door for the CNMI to keep these funding resources in the territory and instead make needed infrastructure repairs to improve its resilience against future storms."

On Jan. 31, 2020, President Donald Trump announced through FEMA that an amendment (CNMI Amendment 4 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration), with conditions, had been granted to the CNMI adjusting federal cost sharing levels to a full 100% for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program disaster assistance related to Super Typhoon Yutu, thereby removing the federal match required of the CNMI.

Accordingly, the CNMI government requested to redirect funds previously awarded in fiscal year 2019 as matching funds toward the repair and renovation of CNMI Department of Finance facilities. Renovations will incorporate features for resilience against future natural disasters. Improvements include, but are not limited to, the replacement of windows and doors, new ADA-compliant restrooms, repair and strengthening of roof surfaces, new water/sewer piping, new emergency lights, and new electrical wiring and fixtures to comply with the latest National Electrical Code. ***(PR)***

CNMI gets $274,635 for mortgage assistance

The CNMI has been allocated $274,635 for Community Emergency Housing Assistance by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Community Development Block Grant CARES Act fund.

The funding will be used for mortgage assistance to assist qualified homeowners and households who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This unprecedented pandemic has impacted all of us, and this has severely affected our housing issues. In addition to the Emergency Solutions Grants program to prevent homelessness, the CDBG-CV will assist homeowners with their mortgages. We thank NMHC for their hard work in securing this funding to assist households and families," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in a media statement last Friday.

CDBG-CV Mortgage Assistance for qualified households will be an amount up to $900 per month for a maximum of three months and is on a first-come, first serve basis.

If a household is more than three months delinquent with their mortgage, they must first pay the outstanding balance above the three months' delinquency amount before the assistance is given. NMHC will pay the lending institution directly.

Eligible applicants must be U.S. citizens or qualified aliens and must have a gross household income less than 80% of the CNMI median income for fiscal year 2020 as determined by HUD. They must present documentation of how COVID-19 has impacted their lives, such as being furloughed, having work hours reduced, or receiving unemployment benefits such as Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

HUD or Northern Marianas Housing Corp. Assisted Loan Borrowers (e.g., HOME Program, Neighborhood Stabilization Program) will not qualify as this will be considered a duplication of benefits.

For more information, please contact NMHC at (670) 234-6866. ***(PR)***

QUAKE UPDATES

4.4-magnitude quake in CNMI

At 8:36am on Aug. 2, 2020, a report of 4.4-magnitude earthquake occurred at 19.183°N 146.101°E, Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami advisories or warnings issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. ***(PR)***

4.1-magnitude quake on Pagan

At 2:09 pm on July 31, 2020, a report of 4.1-magnitude earthquake occurred at 18.399°N 145.21°E in the Pagan region of the CNMI. Currently, there are no tsunami advisories or warnings issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. ***(PR)***

4.4-magnitude quake in CNMI

At 8:36 am on Aug. 2, 2020, a report of 4.4-magnitude earthquake occurred at 19.183°N 146.101°E, Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami advisories or warnings issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-20-007

Archaeological Services forS19-069 Construction of Afetna Sewer Collection Upgrade

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Archaeologists or firms that meet the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan, to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 Review of the National Historic Preservation Act for FY19 for the construction of a new sewerline in Afetna Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The existing Afetna sewer system was privately built and poorly installed due to excessive buildup of the Garment Industry. The project aims to replace the old system with approximately 5000 linear feet of new gravity sewer main with new sewer laterals and the installation of sewer manholes.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conducting the necessary research and fieldwork that represents a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties, to include archaeological resources, as set out in the regulations 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1):
   a. Background research design and work plan;
   b. Archival background information;
   c. Sample field investigation, and field survey;
   d. Past planning, research and studies;
   e. The magnitude and nature of the undertaking;
   f. The degree of federal involvement;
   g. The nature and extent of potential effects on historic properties within the APE;
   h. The likely nature, identification and location of historic properties within the APE; and,
   i. Create a mitigation plan to resolve adverse effects.

2. Preparation of the necessary reports and letters for submittal to various federal and local resource agencies to address environmental requirements of Section 106 to completely secure concurrence for the projects ready for construction.

3. Deliverables
   a. 2 copies of the final report for review and approval to HPO and CUC, and
   b. Map showing the location of identified historic properties which would assist with alignment of the sewerline to avoid such properties.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-20-007: Archaeological Services for S-19-069 Construction of Afetna Sewer Collection Upgrade"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 27, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economic Development Administration
SEATTLE REGIONAL OFFICE
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, Washington, 98174

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the CNMI Department of Finance (DOF) to construct the CNMI Economic Resiliency Center (ERC) in Capital Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties. Notice is hereby given that the project is proposed to be located in, or may affect, a floodplain and/or wetland as defined by Executive Order (EO) 11988 and/or EO 11990.

The project is located in Capital Hill adjacent to the Department of Finance's Finance & Accounting building and the CNMI Emergency Operations Center. The Department of Finance (DOF) proposes to construct a concrete, three-story, 36,000 sq. ft., typhoon resistant structure that can withstand Category 5 typhoons and sustained winds of up to 200mph. The Economic Resiliency Center will serve as the centralized location for public financial management processes, as well as interagency data connectivity and communication networks. Additionally, the Economic Resiliency Center will serve as a location to support workforce development and training, and as a one stop location to streamline business licensing processes.

Project information is available for review at the CNMI Office of Planning & Development (OPD), Office of the Governor, CDA Building Suite 308, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950, or by calling 670-488-1221.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts to historic properties or environmental resources including wetlands or floodplains associated with this proposed project, please provide it in writing to:

Regional Environmental Officer
Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174
RDimmick@eda.gov

Comments received in the EDA Regional Office by 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time on September 4, 2020 will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ADDENDUM NO. 2
ITB20-COTA/FTA-088

"PURCHASE & DELIVERY OF EIGHT (8) MEDIUM-DUTY LOW FLOOR 2020 OR NEWER ADA ACCESSIBLE BUSES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

July 31, 2020

This Addendum is issued to reschedule the submission and opening deadline for on-island and off-island bidders and to amend the specifications for the above mentioned ITB.

- Sealed bid submittals for this project must be submitted with **one (1) original and three (3) copies** to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than *09:00 a.m., local time, August 07, 2020* is changed to read **09:00 a.m., local time, August 10, 2020** and must be marked **ITB20-COTA/FTA-088**.

- Bids submitted by firms outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than *August 07, 2020* is changed to read **August 10, 2020** and mailed to the Director of Procurement and Supply to P.O. Box 510008 C.K., Saipan MP, 96950 and the bid documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill no later than *August 18, 2020* is changed to ready **August 19, 2020**.

- Bidders outside the Commonwealth must notify the Director of Procurement and Supply, in writing, of their intent to submit a Notice of Intent to Bid in order to receive this additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of the actual proposal documents. This Notice of Intent to Bid may be any mode of written communication including facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or e-mailed to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp but must be received no later than *09:00 a.m., local time, August 07, 2020* is changed to read **09:00 a.m., local time, August 10, 2020.**

- Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at *09:00 a.m., local time, August 19, 2020* is changed to read **09:00 a.m., local time, August 20, 2020**. However, if no Notice of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at *09:00 a.m., local time, August 07, 2020* is changed to read **09:00 a.m., local time, August 10, 2020.**

In the specifications:

1. Chassis:
- GVWR Front Axle: 4,600 is changed to read **GVWR Front Axle: 4,600 LB or Greater**.
- GVWR Rear Axle: 9,600 is changed to read **GVWR Rear Axle: 9,500 LB or Greater**
- 6-Speed Automatic Transmission (MYD) is changed to read **6-Speed Automatic Transmission**
- Park Brake: Internal Rear Disc is changed to read **Park Brake: Internal Rear Disc or Rear Axle Mounted**
- Battery: Dual Batteries, 600 CCA Primary, 770 CCA Auxiliary is changed to read **Battery: Dual Batteries, 600 CCA or Greater Primary, 650 CCA or Greater Auxiliary**
- 6.0L Gas is changed **Engine: 6.0L Gas or Greater**
- Alternator: 220 Amp is changed **Alternator: 220 Amp or Greater**
- Fuel Tank: 57 Gallon is changed to read **Fuel Tank: 55 Gallon or Greater**
- Tires: LT225/75RX16D/E on White Steel Rims is changed to read **Tires: LT225/75RX16D on White Steel Rims or LT225/75RX16E on White Steal Rims**

2. Construction:
- Bolt and Bonded Construction is changed to read **Bolt and Bonded Construction or Equal**
- Seating Capacity: Theater Seating up to 18+ 4-passengers w/ 2 wheel chairs is changed to read **Seating Capacity: Theater Seating 16 + 4-passengers w/ 2 wheelchairs for a total of 20 seats.**

3. Ramps:
- Automatic Wheelchair Ramp w/ 4:1 slope. 1,000 pounds is changed on read **Automatic Wheelchair Ramp w/ either 4:1 or 5:1 slope. 1,000-pound capacity.**

4. Delivery Time:
- Bidder shall use all reasonable diligence to deliver the Vehicles within One Hundred Eighty (180) Calendar days after the completion of contract processing and the Notice to Proceed (NTP) letter is executed accordingly to the most responsive bidder is changed to read **Bidders shall use all reasonable diligence to deliver the Vehicles within Three Hundred (300) Calendar days after completion of contract processing and the Notice to Proceed (NTP) letter is executed accordingly to the most responsive bidder.**

5. Mileage on the Vehicles' odometers at Delivery
- No more than 600 miles on the odometer upon delivery is changed to read **No more than 3,000 miles on the odometer upon delivery**

All other requirements stated in the Invitation to Bid shall remain as stated.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Seabees partner with Tinian residents to clean beach

Seabees assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian pose for a photo with residents after helping clean up Unai Dankulo Beach on Tinian.

U.S. NAVY/MARCUS HENLEY

TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—Thirty-three Seabees from U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian partnered with residents to clean up trash along Unai Dankulo (Long Beach) on Tinian last July 18.

"It's awesome seeing everyone come out with the can-do attitude, working together to preserve the island's natural beauty," said Lt. j.g. Aaron Ignacio, officer-in-charge of NMCB-3's Detail Tinian. "It's a great experience and allows us to give back to the community and demonstrates our commitment to the people of Tinian."

The volunteers collected more than seven cubic yards of trash that included plastic bottles, fishing nets, and general waste that washed up from the ocean. The largest effort was on the northern end of the beach that has been underused due to the large volume of debris.

"I commend the Seabees on their initiative and interest in beautifying Long Beach," said Joseph Hocog, a Tinian resident that participated in the cleanup. "Debris has always been an issue in that area and it was great to see our military brothers and sisters and our [residents] chip in to keep our island clean and inviting."

NMCB-3, Detail Tinian is continuing to work with the Tinian municipality to plan for future volunteer opportunities and community relations events; the purpose of these events is to create, foster, and develop sustained positive relationships between the military and the local Tinian population.

NMCB-3 is deployed across the Indo-Pacific region conducting high-quality construction to support U.S. and partner nations to strengthen partnerships, deter aggression, and enable expeditionary logistics and naval power projection. The battalion stands ready to complete assigned tasking, support Humanitarian Aid/Disaster Relief and Major Combat Operations throughout the area of operations. ***(Marcus Henley)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EXPLOSIVE DETECTION SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT PROJECT,** SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-16.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Explosive Detection Systems Replacement Project for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-006-16" and submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020, to the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of the two existing Explosive Detections System (EDS) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport with a new temporary baggage facility for the temporary conveyors/EDS machines including all associated work, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the U.S. Transportation Security Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED FORTY (540) calendar days**.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ($1,500.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the departure terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (US $250.00) for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD) including the bid schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

Each bidder shall file at the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, a written notice of intention to bid using the Intent to Bid Form on LP 2 of the specifications, or similar, at least seven **(7) calendar days** prior to the date designated for the opening of bid proposals.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders are required to attend the pre-bid meeting. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as face wear a mask at all times while at the airport.

Questions should be submitted to the CPA Executive Director at the CPA Administration Office, in writing, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 30, 2020

United Carolinians Association is revived

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

United Carolinians Association officers and members of the UCA board of directors gather for a photo at July 28, 2020 board meeting. Left to right: Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar, Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero, Malcom J. Omar, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Frank M. Rabauliman, Carolinian Affairs Office executive assistant John I. Tagabuel, Maria T. Peter, Melvin O. Faisao, Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ramon A. Tebuteb.

Past and current elected leaders gathered to revive a Refaluwasch organization with a vision of improving the lives of the Refaluwasch people in the Northern Marianas.

To further support initiatives of the Carolinian Affairs Office, leaders from the Refaluwasch community came together to organize the United Carolinians Association. Officially incorporated on July 14, 2020, UCA formed to "preserve, promote and advance the culture, education, economic self-sufficiency and quality of life of the Northern Marianas Carolinians."

Members of the board of directors, both past and present elected and government leaders, include former representatives Fred Peters Rogolifoi Deleon Guerrero, Melvin Odoshi Faisao, Jacinta Matagolai Kaipat, Maria "Malua" Taisakan Peter, Mariano Taitano, Ramon "Ray" Angailen Tebuteb; Rep. Edmund Hosono Sablan Villagomez and Rep. Jose Ilo Itibus; Sen. Sixto Kaipat Igisomar; former governor Benigno Repeki Fitial; and OPD director Aschumar Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong. Executive assistant for Carolinian Affairs John Itibus Tagabuel serves as an ex-officio member.

In their organizational meeting last July 9, the UCA board of directors elected as their officers Frank Mareham Rabauliman as president; Felicidad "Daling" Taman Ogumoro as vice president; Mark Olopai Rabauliman as treasurer, and Malcolm Jason Omar as secretary.

"The current COVID-19 pandemic crisis and economic impacts from the past two super typhoons have affected the lives of every citizen in the CNMI. We wanted to revive UCA to pool our ideas and resources in pursuit of the mission and goals of UCA, to help our people and contribute to our community," said Rabauliman. "We have united to support executive assistant Tagabuel in his duties as established by Article III Section 18 of the CNMI Constitution to benefit our people."

"We want to ensure that opportunities are sought out and made available to the Northern Marianas Carolinians that would help us work toward achieving economic self-sufficiency. This will in turn not only benefit the Carolinians and Chamorros of Northern Marianas descent, but all members of our community," said Ogumoro.

UCA wishes to inform the public that it will be announcing upcoming community meetings. Any inquiries or requests for assistance can be sent to carolinisunited@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC IFB 2020-009

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: September 3, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Building Maintenance Services for NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan

Project package will be available on August 03, 2020, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held via video teleconferencing on August 19, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net. We request from bidders to submit a notice via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net of their intent to participate in the mandatory pre-bid conference at least one (1) day before the conference. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30a.m. – 4:30p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/
Vinney Atalig - Hocog
Chairman, NMHC Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC RFP 2020-010

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: September 3, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES

Project package will be available on August 03, 2020, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement" tab.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Proposal conference will be held via video teleconferencing on August 19, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Proposers will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net "Procurement" tab. We request from bidders to submit a notice via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net of their intent to participate in the mandatory pre-bid conference at least one (1) day before the conference. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-proposal conference will be considered a non-responsive proposer.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30a.m. – 4:30p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/
Vinney Atalig - Hocog
Chairman, NMHC Board of Directors

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!!!!!!

Opening Date: 08/03/2020 Closing Date: 08/13/2020

JVA#20-001: **Marketing Manager**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 or visit www.mymarianas.com for more details.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of August 3, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Office of the Vice Speaker, 21st House of Representatives of the CNMI Honorable Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	07/28/2020 SSm-2020-X-063	Construction of One Beach Pala-Pala Structure	Laolao Beach Area, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 07/30/2020
2. Office of Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan, 21st House of Representatives of the CNMI	07/28/2020 SSm-2020-X-052	Construction of Four Beach Pala-Pala Structures	Susupe-Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 07/30/2020

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 152

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Who wouldn't want to go to Mars these days?

Let's get out of here.

Who hasn't thought that at some point in the past four months, as we hunkered down in our homes, brooding and restless but with no place to go? The pandemic shuttered our offices and made the idea of venturing anywhere more ambitious than a grocery store seem like a perilous journey. Any trip that required a flight or a stroll among the masses—even masked—seemed an unreasonable risk.

So is it any wonder, in our longing to get away from this virus-riddled existence, that we have found an escape in space? We have hitched a virtual ride on the rocket that will take the intrepid Mars rover, Perseverance (of course that's its name), to the red planet. Takeoff for this $2.4-billion mission took place Thursday morning, and it's not a moment too soon.

While we barely have occasion to drive more than three miles (when was the last time you bought gas?), the space vehicle carrying the JPL-built robotic explorer will travel 309 million miles. Once it arrives at an ancient lake bed, it will tour the surface, scouting for evidence of extraterrestrial life and sending back not just pictures but sounds. Are we even prepared?

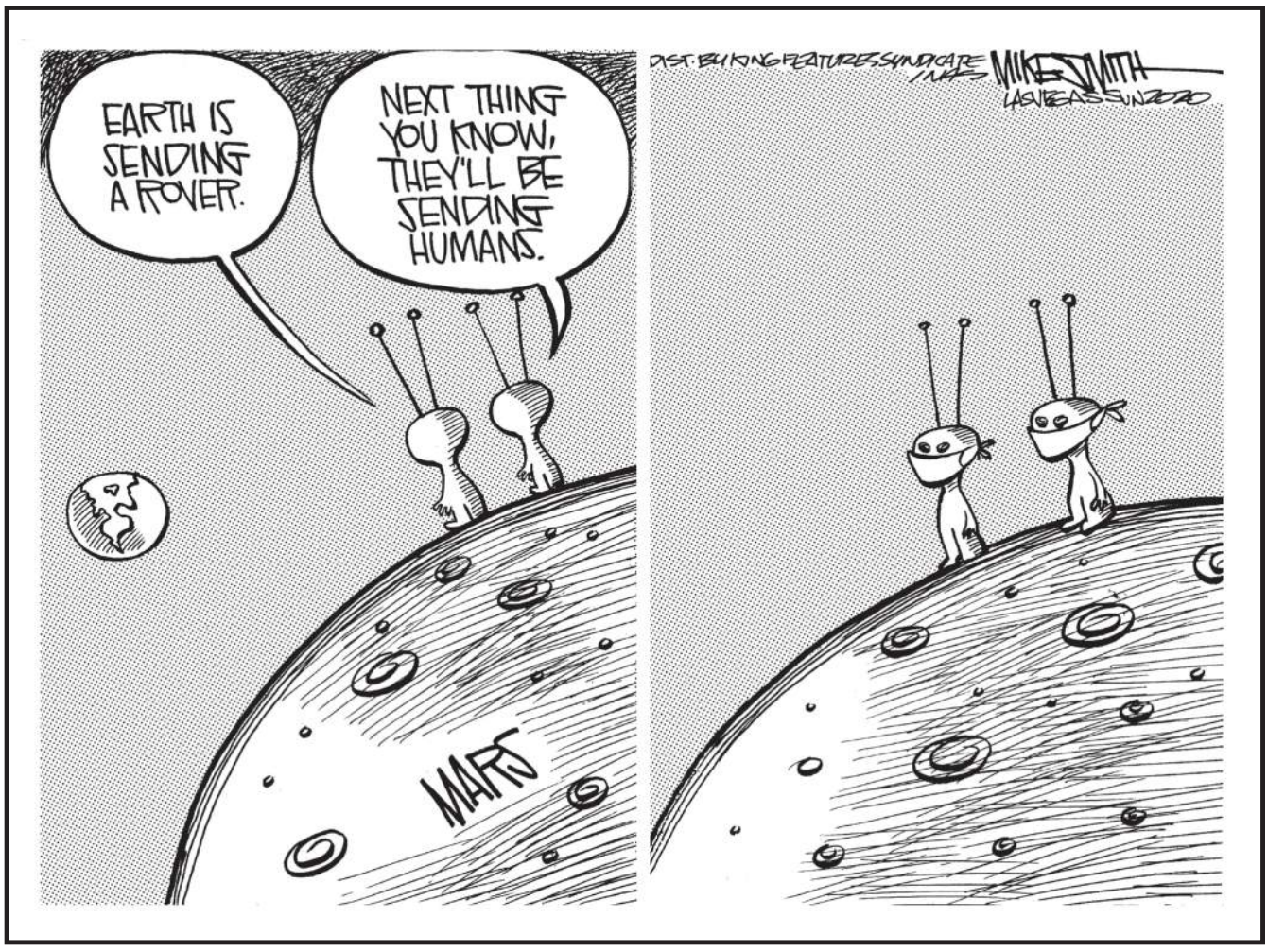
Suddenly a planet that is forbidding—with its frigid minus-80 degree temperature and thin, unbreathable atmosphere—seems more inviting than our pandemic-wracked Earth. And while our entire planet put their plans on hold, this was one trip that could not be postponed. The orbits of Earth and Mars align only once every 26 months. If scientists miss their shot this time, they will have to wait two years before trying again.

Ten spacecraft—including four rovers—have landed there over the past half-century. We are enthusiastically racking up the frequent flier miles to Mars, all in the hopes that one day people will fly there too. It's exhilarating that the pandemic didn't stop this trip.

The rover isn't the only extraterrestrial object that has caught our imaginations and let us, at least mentally, travel far, far away. Earlier in July, we caught sight of the flashy comet NEOWISE, so named for the acronym of the astronomical space telescope that discovered it. And if you missed that, you could be mesmerized by Venus shining with unnerving brightness in the predawn sky.

We also watched raptly as NASA astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley rocketed to the International Space Station in the SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft in late May. Who didn't envy them a little bit?

(c)2020 *Los Angeles Times*


EARTH IS SENDING A ROVER.
NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THEY'LL BE SENDING HUMANS.
MARS
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE INC.
MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2020

The case against the case against reopening schools

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero.

As coronavirus cases continue to rise, more public school systems are announcing they will reopen only online—even when faced with direct and intense public pressure from President Donald Trump.

So much enters the calculus for K-12 school reopenings, from the health dangers to the value of education to the disparate impacts and imperfections of online education. While there is no single right answer for all districts, consider this a nudge in the direction of reopening.

First and most important, there is a distinction between children spreading the virus and children spreading the virus through school activities. The case against a physical reopening rests on the public health dangers, but the relevant question is relative.

Even if the schools do not physically reopen, children will still hang out together. This is especially true for teenagers, and they are also a group that, in a South Korean study, can readily spread the virus to others. Not many parents are going to quarantine their 15-year-olds at home for many months, much less their 17-year-olds. Recall that Romeo and Juliet were teenagers and came together as lovers against extreme parental opposition and during a time of plague.

It is possible that these children will spread the virus less if they were at school than if they were spending time together on their own. At least at school there would be teachers and other staff to enforce some measure of social distancing and proper hygiene practices, such as regular hand-washing.

You can always make a kid safer by keeping him or her at home for a week. But that probably won't work for what could amount to a 10-month period, if schools stay closed till next year.

To be sure, it's by no means certain that schools will be safer places for children; whether they are will depend on the region. Still, the mere citation of public health dangers isn't quite as decisive an argument against physical reopening as it may seem.

A related yet less explicit argument is that the public schools are in an awkward place if the virus spreads there. The schools would seem directly responsible for the problem, and parents (and taxpayers) might start trusting them much less. It is easy to imagine the extra costs of teachers quitting and morale plummeting in these scenarios.

Stated bluntly, this argument is simple: "We can't let the public schools look bad." Yet even making this argument is likely to make schools look bad—because most Americans know that other workplaces face generally similar issues when it comes to dealing with risk. Maybe the public is willing to cut teachers and school districts some slack for a while. But if the public schools still receive tax dollars yet cannot teach children in person, they will eventually lose political support.

No one likes to admit it, but one of the most important arguments for much of K-12 education is simply that it provides day care services for parents. Those services are essential not just for the smooth functioning of labor markets but for parental sanity as well. If schools can't even provide that day care, maybe they won't seem so necessary.

Many parents would prefer to keep their tax money and spend it on other educational opportunities, whether it's sending their children to charter schools, private schools, "pod" schools, or some hybrid arrangement. "Vouchers for just this year" might prove popular, again making the public schools look bad.

If the U.S. moved to such a regime, there would be many more decentralized decisions about under what terms the schools should reopen (and in fact some of these private alternatives will spring into place without vouchers). Among other things, that raises again the possibility of contagion through children regardless of whether public schools are open.

Of course many school reopenings will bring only partial attendance, as polls of parents indicate skepticism about in-person classes. The resulting greater physical space for social distancing, and more limited possibilities for contagion, will again make people wonder why the public schools are physically closed altogether, given that some parents really wish to send their children.

One cannot in good conscience argue that every district should reopen, given the potential for disaster. And in many cases there probably just isn't a correct moral answer as to whether school reopenings should proceed. Nonetheless, the arguments against the physical reopening of public schools are weaker than they at first appear. There is no way to truly protect children and their parents—or the reputations of teachers and public schools.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Grocery workers deserve hero pay

By CHRISTY HOFFMAN
Tribune News Service

Christy Hoffman is the General Secretary of UNI Global Union, which represents more than 20 million workers from more than 150 different countries. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

Supermarket cashiers, stockers, butchers and bakers all play a vital but long undervalued role in our food chain. During the pandemic, they have been on the front lines risking—and too often losing—their lives to make sure that our families and communities stay fed.

In the United States alone, thousands of grocery workers have contracted COVID-19 and at least 70 have died. All over the world, food retail workers are being expected to work exceptional hours and at greater risk, for which they have in many cases received additional compensation.

But, unlike the pandemic, this seems to be coming to an end.

Stop & Shop, a supermarket chain in the eastern United States, ended its 10% "hero pay" bonus for its 56,000 workers in July. But grocery store chains everywhere are starting to take steps to keep workers from getting an extra $50 or so per week. The average wage for a nonunion grocery store cashier in the U.S. is only $12 per hour, well below a living wage, even for a full-time worker.

In the United States, which is seeing rapidly rising numbers of new COVID-19 infections, more than 40 grocery chains, including Kroger, Albertsons, Whole Foods and Trader Joe's, have put an end to hero pay. U.K. supermarket chain Tesco terminated its 10% appreciation bonus on May 30, as COVID-19 cases continued to swell in that country, as they do in the United States.

Apparently, grocery employers are betting that workers will not protest too much in face of rising unemployment, and that they will feel lucky just to have jobs. But workers are not barrels of oil, with prices that fluctuate with demand. They should be given decent pay, commensurate with their importance.

That is why unions globally are coalescing around a simple demand: Pay food retail workers what they are worth. Permanently.

In Canada, Unifor has launched a "Fair Pay Forever" campaign. The United Food and Commercial Workers union in the United States is calling for a permanent pay rise for these frontline workers. So are other unions in the United Kingdom, Australia and Turkey.

By making hero pay permanent, we acknowledge that the world of retail has changed, and that service industry workers are at greater risk. It acknowledges that their work is essential. It also makes grocery workers better able to put food on their own tables.

And higher wages are not all that is needed. Trade unions have been pushing to secure protective equipment, enforce social distancing, reasonable scheduling and protections against the growing problem of customer abuse. The UFCW is also calling for special legal status for key U.S. workers that would give access to childcare and other benefits in a time of crisis.

This is not the time to turn back the clock to pre-pandemic levels of precarious, underpaid work. We must resist employers who are taking back hard-earned raises and trying to steamroll workers' attempts to organize for better jobs. We must show we value the critical work that food retailers do. That means living wages and safe union jobs.

These measures will not let grocery workers live like royalty or even supermarket CEOs, but they would let them work more safely and live like the heroes they have proven to be.

Who's responsible for protest violence?

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

So now we know. It was a white supremacist who started the first riot in Minneapolis. He was walking along wearing a black coat with an umbrella and, the next thing you knew, he was breaking glass windows with a hammer. The crowd of peaceful protesters got excited and soon enough had mastered the art of destructive mayhem. No less than a day later the protesters had started 30 fires costing $500 million, including in police stations.

He is called "The Umbrella Man," this accused miscreant, because, for one thing, he was indeed carrying an umbrella, and, for another, there was a man who earlier got that name because he was carrying an umbrella at the scene of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Some thought he was the one who killed Kennedy and so there is a similarity here: Lee Harvey Oswald didn't do it and the peaceful protesters didn't do it.

The second part of the thesis appears to have increased legitimacy because various reports tell us that some of those stirring up trouble aren't protesters, but KKK, neo-Nazis and other groups of white supremacists who are also opportunists.

If this is the case to any considerable extent, the nagging question becomes why Democratic governors and mayors have allowed this to go on, this minimizing of police protection when the Klansmen block traffic, cause utter confusion in downtown areas or throw rocks hitting officers in the head. Do they not care about the neo-Nazis hoisting Molotov cocktails high and wide, about eye-blinding laser beams, about wrecked businesses, even about people shot to death? Why have Democratic members of Congress been in favor of allowing white supremacists to destroy a federal court in Portland, Oregon, along with parts of several cities?

It is time for answers and they are obvious. First off, it does not matter who is harmfully breaking the law. The harm must be legally stopped, and too many of our leaders just don't get it. They say less racism is a good cause and they are right, but it does not follow that a good cause means anything goes. They will tell you that peaceful protest is part of what America is, and they are right, but it is absurdity surrounded by deception to maintain that what we have had is just peaceful protest or that white supremacists are mostly to blame.

Even if the Umbrella Man started what happened in Minneapolis, it was then the protesters who sprang into action. And if it is mostly white supremacists committing evil at an event, then the peaceful protesters should depart. They should protest elsewhere. They should avoid anything damaging other lives. They should quit cheering the people who hate them.

They do seem to be doing a decent job of identifying some of the troublemakers as antifa or KKK or what have you. Just from watching TV, I have no doubt many of the unruly protesters, maybe even a majority, are white, but I also suspect some are upper-middle-class young people subscribing to leftism.

I have seen all kinds of articles defending peaceful protest, and so do I, but then so many of those articles confuse "peaceful" with arson, theft and vandalism. What they do is make excuses and tell you how horrible police are and how insistent racism is. They neglect progress and the fact that police debasement, hindrance and the wrong kind of reform can lead to the kind of Black-on-Black criminality right now killing Black children in Chicago.

To be sure, I understand the fear of public officials that a policeman could possibly shoot a demonstrator, but leftists refuse to listen to research at odds with their claims about racist police shootings or about calamitous consequences of unleashed criminality in Black neighborhoods or about cultural issues fostering much of what we are seeing.

In defense of Liz Cheney

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

In this summer of Republican discontent, a handful of GOP House members have identified what's ailing the party: Liz Cheney.

The two-term Wyoming congresswoman, chair of the House GOP Conference and daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney was called out at a conference meeting for myriad alleged sins, including insufficient loyalty to President Donald Trump.

This episode is much more telling about Cheney's internal GOP critics than Cheney.

She rightly refuses to play by the dumb rule insisted on by MAGA and Never-Trump Republicans from their respective parts of the spectrum, that the only two options are to submit to the president totally or to oppose him totally, with no honorable space in between.

Cheney is a member of Republican leadership, which imposes its obligations, but she hasn't checked her mind or conscience at the door. She has deeply held views on foreign policy and doesn't hide them, even when they depart from those of the president.

She has also been a consistent voice for taking the pandemic seriously and wearing masks, and has defended Dr. Anthony Fauci. Can anyone doubt that if Trump had taken her tack, he'd be in a stronger position today?

But some of Cheney's colleagues are upset with her rather than the president. Her occasional dissents supposedly endanger the project of taking back the House, an absurd notion.

This is a variant of the odd political accounting of the most fervent Trump supporters. By their lights, if, say, the president stumbles his way through a "Fox News Sunday" interview, that's not the problem. No, the problem is only if someone who is right-of-center points it out.

This logic has put an accent on whispered conversations in the GOP—even the most vociferous defenders of the president will often admit in private that they are disquieted or even outraged by something Trump has said or done, but won't dare say it openly.

It is also a way to deflect any responsibility from the president, when, obviously, if the worst comes in November, it will be because of what he did in office, not because Rep. Liz Cheney said it's a bad idea to pull U.S. troops out of Germany.

Whatever you think of Cheney, she inarguably has a well-thought-out worldview that she defends resolutely and thoughtfully.

The Cheney episode shows how loyalty, or purported loyalty, to Trump is used as a political bludgeon in internal GOP fights.

According to Sen. Rand Paul, who took shots at her in the press after the GOP meeting, "She tries to sabotage everything he tries to do in foreign policy, so I don't know whether she's a good advocate for the president."

But it's not as though when Paul strongly disagrees with Trump, the senator salutes smartly and marches in lockstep.

The backdrop to the Cheney conflict is a broader fight over foreign policy. At the moment, that takes the form of a struggle to influence Trump's policy decisions. If the president loses, it will be one of a host of ideological conflicts over the direction of a post-Trump party.

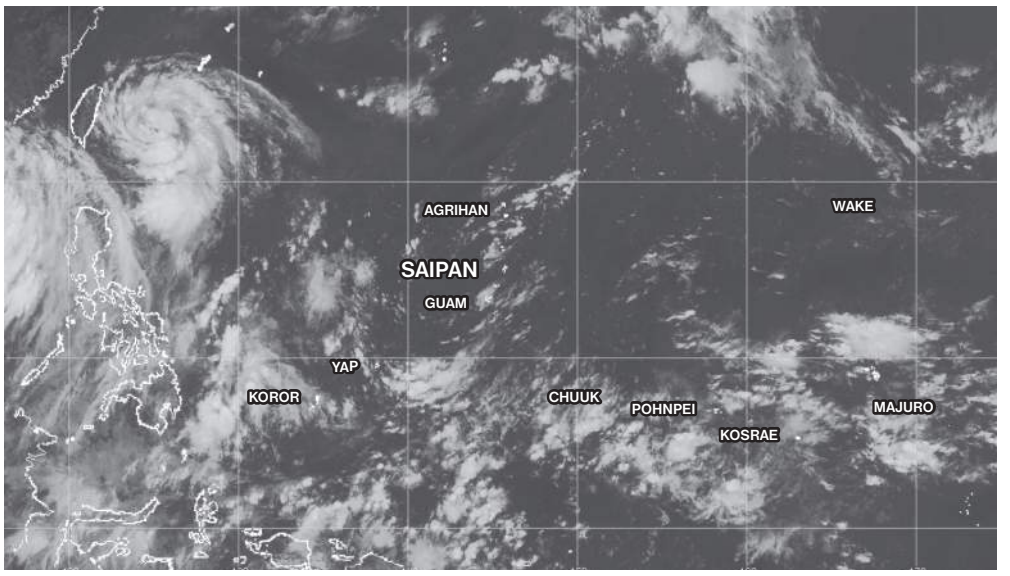
Whichever way it goes, Cheney is going to be a formidable voice, and her willingness to speak her mind, even at time when it is discouraged, redounds to her credit.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. isolated showers and thunderstorms for Guam.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89º 78º	86º 77º	89º 78º	89º 78º	89º 78º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:21 AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

There are mostly clear skies across the Marianas as we start the day. Showers are forming to the south and east of Guam and are moving into the waters south of Guam. Across the region moderate trade winds are from the east and buoys show seas in the 3 to 5 foot range.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Tuesday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:16 AM	6:37 PM
Tuesday	-	6:12 AM	7:23 PM
Wednesday	-	7:06 AM	8:06 PM
Thursday	-	7:57 AM	8:45 PM
Friday	-	8:46 AM	9:22 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 46°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°
Hong Kong	Showers	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°
London	Rain	64° / 63°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	90° / 73°
Manila	Rain	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	52° / 41°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 83°
New York	Mostly Sunny	88° / 72°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	93° / 75°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	102° / 75°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 70°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	67° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	93° / 75°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	81° / 68°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	89° / 72°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.35
6:24 AM	LOW TIDE	2.03
1:49 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.18
8:51 PM	LOW TIDE	1.99

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

SWR's **Meals To Go** just keeps on going

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Meals To Go's SJ set consists of Japanese pickle, egg roll, umeboshi, California roll, inari sushi, shrimp tempura, and grilled pike fish.

Oasis Book Lounge's always popular board games. MARK RABAGO

Oasis Book Lounge is located on the north wing of Saipan World Resort and entrance is through the hotel lobby. MARK RABAGO

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan World Resort has again extended its Meals To Go promotion and, starting today will make it available for dine-in at its newly reopened Oasis Book Lounge.

Meals To Go was supposed to be just a limited-run promotion, said Mike Babauta, SWR's Local Sales & Marketing manager, but the demand has been so great since they started it in June that they've extended again and now is even offering a dine-in option.

"We have revamped some menus and kept our popular ones. Plus, we will offer light snacks, sweets, and beverages from 11am to 4pm at our Oasis Book Lounge," he said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Prior to reopening the Oasis Book Lounge, customers ordering the Meals To Go promotion used to pick them up via drive-thru at the entrance of SWR's Wave Jungle attraction.

Meals To Go packages come in two sizes—super size and regular size. The former is only for $10 and includes the SL (super-size local) set made up of Hawaiian poke, green salad, tuna sashimi, chicken wing, crispy prawn, and fried rice. The SJ (super-size Japanese) set consists of Japanese pickle, egg roll, umeboshi, California roll, inari sushi, shrimp tempura, and grilled pike fish.

The $8 regular Meals To Go has five sets that include anything from stir-fried sliced pork to shrimp tempura, to tuna sashimi, to chicken afritada, to poached sea scallop with meatballs.

Just some of the light snacks offered at Oasis are red bean Danish, powder sugar donut with chocolate ganache dip, macaroons, pizza toasts, and ham and cheese sandwich.

And if you're into sweets, you can also indulge in SWR's signature cakes like their heart cake, dark chocolate cake, cloud cake, cheese cake, and white cream cake. All are available at Oasis Book Lounge for take-out and dine-in.

To celebrate the reopening of the Oasis Book Lounge, dine-in customers who purchase a Meals To Go bento or a full set of snacks get a free cup of coffee or iced tea, plus use of the outlet's always popular board games.

Those who wish to have some work done will also be pleased to know that SWR has free Wi-Fi at the Oasis Book Lounge.

As far as COVID-19 safety measures are concerned, Babauta said Oasis Book Lounge can only have room for 54 customers (its original capacity is 108) and all guests will have their temperatures checked before being allowed inside the resort, be required to wear marks, and should strictly follow directional arrows inside the outlet. Hand sanitizers are also readily available for guests at strategic points of the Oasis Book Lounge.

Oasis Book Lounge is located on the north wing of SWR and entrance is through the hotel lobby. Oasis Book Lounge is open on weekdays from 11am to 4pm. For more information, to order or pre-order, or to reserve seats, call 234-5900 ext. 398.

Miyashita named to *Forbes'* list of Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisors

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—Jason B. Miyashita, CIMA®, CRPS®, AIFA®, managing director, senior vice president, investments and senior institutional consultant at Raymond James & Associates, member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC in Maite, Guam, was recently named to the *Forbes* list of America's Top Next-Generation Wealth Advisors, which recognizes advisors from national, regional and independent firms.

The list, which recognizes advisors from national, regional and independent firms, was released online July 24, 2020. Miyashita has worked at Raymond James since 2015 and have over 18 years of financial services experience. The 2020 Top Next-Gen list includes 500 rising advisors who help manage over $1 trillion in client assets. Each advisor was nominated by their firm, then vetted and ranked by SHOOK Research.

"I consider it an honor to be ranked among our country's top next-generation wealth advisors," Miyashita said. "To be included among such an elite group is humbling."

"We're proud to see Jason included in such a prestigious group of the country's top 500 millennial advisors," said Tash Elywn, President & CEO of Raymond James & Associates. "To be recognized as one of the nation's top wealth advisors is an outstanding achievement and a testament to Jason's professionalism and commitment to clients. This is the second year that Forbes has included advisors in the U.S. Territories in the list which is remarkable."

Miyashita

Miyashita, a founding partner of The Asia Pacific Group of Raymond James, has more than 18 years of experience in the financial services industry and was born and raised in Guam. He is a graduate of The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania where he studied accounting, finance, and strategic management and Guam's Father Duenas Memorial High School and St. Anthony School. He earned the Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA®) professional designation from The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. He also currently holds the Chartered Retirement Plans Specialist (CRPS®) professional designation by the College for Financial Planning and the Accredited Investment Fiduciary Analyst (AIFA®) professional designation, awarded by the Center for Fiduciary Studies, which is associated with the University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business.

Miyashita is adjunct faculty and an international conference speaker for the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies. He is an active member of the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay Guam, Guam Chamber of Commerce, Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Palau Chamber of Commerce, and The Pacific Club in Honolulu, Hawaii. He has been recognized in various international financial publications to include *Forbes, Financial Times, Barron's, On Wall Street, Fundfire*, and *InvestmentNews*.

The Asia Pacific Group joined Raymond James from Morgan Stanley in 2015, where they collectively manage more than $1.75 billion in client assets and are one of the firm's key institutional consulting groups in the Western Pacific U.S. region. The team comprises Daniel A. Roland, CIMA®, AIFA®, MBA, managing director, senior vice president, Investments, and senior institutional consultant; Jason B. Miyashita, CIMA®, CRPS®, AIFA®, managing director, senior vice president, Investments and senior institutional consultant; Amanda Gima, AIF®, financial advisor, Amber Leon Guerrero, AIF®, Senior Client Service associate; and Reylynn Sapong, Client Service associate. ***(PR)***

Nation

Negotiators report progress in coronavirus relief talks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lawmakers reported progress on a huge coronavirus relief bill Saturday, as political pressure mounts to restore an expired $600-per-week supplemental unemployment benefit and send funding to help schools reopen.

"This was the longest meeting we've had and it was more productive than the other meetings," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who was part of the rare weekend session. "We're not close yet, but it was a productive discussion — now each side knows where they're at."

Schumer spoke alongside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., after meeting for three hours with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows.

The Democratic leaders are eager for an expansive agreement, as are President Donald Trump and top Republicans like Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. But perhaps one half of Senate Republicans, mostly conservatives and those not facing difficult races this fall, are likely to oppose any deal.

Prior talks had yielded little progress and Saturday's cautious optimism was a break from gloomy private assessments among GOP negotiators. The administration is willing to extend the newly expired $600 jobless benefit, at least in the short term, but is balking at other Democratic demands like aid for state and local governments, food stamp increases, and assistance to renters and homeowners.

AP

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., gives Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y., an elbow bump as Schumer leaves following a meeting at the Capitol with White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on a COVID-19 relief bill, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, in Washington.

Pelosi mentioned food aid and funding for voting by mail after the negotiating session was over. She and Schumer appeared more upbeat than they have after earlier meetings.

"We have to get rid of this virus so that we can open our economy, safely open our schools, and to do so in a way that does not give a cut in benefits to American workers," Pelosi said.

Mnuchin said restoring the $600 supplemental jobless benefit is critically important to Trump.

"We're still a long ways apart and I don't want to suggest that a deal is imminent because it is not," Meadows said afterward. "There are still substantial differences, but we did make good progress."

The additional jobless benefit officially lapsed on Friday, and Democrats have made clear that they will not extend it without securing other relief priorities. Whatever unemployment aid negotiators agree on will be made retroactive — but antiquated state systems are likely to take weeks to restore the benefits.

Republicans in the Senate had been fighting to trim back the $600 benefit, saying it must be slashed so that people don't make more in unemployment than they would if they returned to work. But their resolve weakened as the benefit expired, and Trump abruptly undercut their position by signaling he wants to keep the full $600 for now.

On Friday, Trump used Twitter to explicitly endorse extending the $600 payment and to criticize Schumer.

Washington's top power players agree that Congress must pass further relief in the coming days and weeks. At stake beyond the $600 per week jobless benefit is a fresh $1,200 direct payment to most Americans, and hundreds of billions of dollars in other aid to states, businesses and the poor, among other elements.

Democrats hold a strong negotiating hand — exploiting GOP divisions — and they are expected to deliver a necessary trove of votes.

Ruling renews fairness debate in Boston Marathon bomber case

"Boston Strong" remains a "vibrant" rallying cry more than seven years after the marathon bombing killed three people and injured more than 260 others, a federal appeals court noted as it threw out the death sentence of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

But even as the ruling opened old wounds, it raised familiar questions about whether Tsarnaev can receive a fair hearing in the city where the bombs exploded—a community that may now be asked to relive unspeakable trauma.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held Friday that jurors were not adequately screened for bias ahead of Tsarnaev's 2015 trial, describing media attention in the case as "unrivaled in American legal history."

The three-judge panel ordered a new penalty phase—this time with more searching questions for prospective jurors—to decide whether the 27-year-old should be executed.

Tsarnaev

Tsarnaev "will spend his remaining days locked up in prison," the judges made clear, "with the only matter remaining being whether he will die by execution."

The Justice Department is expected to appeal. Legal observers predict prosecutors will turn straight to the U.S. Supreme Court without asking for a hearing before the full 1st Circuit. The U.S. government recently resumed federal executions following a 17-year pause and, under President Donald Trump, has pursued capital punishment in an increasing number of cases.

"When it comes to death penalty cases, the U.S. Supreme Court has been much more pro-prosecution than many of the circuit courts," said Robert Dunham, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center.

Should Friday's ruling stand, attention will shift to whether an impartial jury can be impaneled in a city still traumatized by the 2013 attack. Tsarnaev's defense team may renew its request to transfer the case out of Boston, where they have long contended public opinion is immutably slanted.

"Everybody in the community understands where 'Boston Strong' came from," Dunham said. "The question will be whether that's so ingrained in the community that jurors can't set it aside and fairly determine the outcome of this case."

Tsarnaev's case is uniquely complicated in that an entire city—if not the whole country—considered itself the target of the bombing, said George Kendall, an attorney who filed a brief contending it was a mistake to hold the trial in Boston. Prosecutors said Tsarnaev and his brother intended the attack to punish the U.S. for wars in Muslim countries.

"This was not just a horrific crime against the individuals who were killed and hurt," Kendall said in an interview Saturday. "This was an attack on the city of Boston and a deliberate attack on its most cherished tradition."

Robert Bloom, a Boston College law professor who has followed the case for years, said a new penalty phase would force the community to relive the bombing.

"My hope is that the government will decide not to put the victims through this again," Bloom said, noting Tsarnaev had been willing to plead guilty before trial had the government taken the death penalty off the table.

Tsarnaev's lawyer echoed Bloom in an email to The Associated Press following Friday's ruling. ***(AP)***

Isaias nears virus-hit Florida after lashing the Bahamas

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Early bands of heavy rain from Isaias lashed Florida's east coast before dawn Sunday as authorities warily eyed the approaching storm, which threatened to snarl efforts to quell surging cases of the coronavirus across the region.

Isaias weakened from a hurricane to a tropical storm late Saturday afternoon, but was expected to regain hurricane strength overnight as it barreled toward Florida.

"Don't be fooled by the downgrade," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis warned during a news conference on Saturday after the storm—pronounced ees-ah-EE-ahs—spent hours roughing up the Bahamas.

Florida authorities closed beaches, parks and virus testing sites, lashing signs to palm trees so they wouldn't blow away. The governor said the state is anticipating power outages and asked residents to have a week's supply of water, food and medicine on hand. Officials wrestled with how to prepare shelters where people can seek refuge from the storm if necessary, while safely social distancing to prevent the spread of the virus.

In Palm Beach County, about 150 people were in shelters, said emergency management spokeswoman Lisa De La Rionda. The county has a voluntary evacuation order for those living in mobile or manufactured homes, or those who feel their home can't withstand winds.

"We don't anticipate many more evacuations," she said, adding that the evacuees are physically distant from each other and are wearing masks, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Isaias is piling another burden on communities already hard-hit by other storms and sickness.

The storm's maximum sustained winds declined steadily throughout Saturday, and were near 70 mph (110 kph) at 5 p.m., when the U.S. National Hurricane Center downgraded it its status. But the agency said it is expected to pick up strength overnight as it heads over warm water toward Florida.

The center of the storm was forecast to regain strength and approach the southeast coast of Florida early Sunday morning, then travel up the state's east coast throughout the day. It is expected to remain a hurricane through Monday then slowly weaken as it tracks up or just off the Atlantic seaboard. Heavy rain, flooding and high winds could batter much of the East Coast this week.

Asia

S. Korea arrests leader of church with big cluster

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean prosecutors arrested the elderly leader of a secretive religious sect Saturday as part of an investigation into allegations that the church hampered the government's anti-virus response after thousands of worshippers were infected in February and March.

Prosecutors in the central city of Suwaon have been questioning 88-year-old Lee Man-hee, chairman of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, over charges that the church hid some members and underreported gatherings to avoid broader quarantines.

The Suwon District Court early Saturday granted prosecutors' request to arrest Lee over concerns that he could temper with evidence.

Lee and his church have steadfastly denied the accusations, saying they're cooperating with health authorities. The church's spokesperson, Kim Young-eun, said the church will do its best so that "the truth is clearly proved in court."

More than 5,200 of the South Korea's 14,336 coronavirus cases have been linked to the church. Its branch in the southern city of Daegu emerged as the biggest cluster after infections spiked in late February.

Health authorities used an aggressive test-and-quarantine program to contain the outbreak in Daegu and nearby towns by April, but the country has seen a resurgence of the virus in the Seoul metropolitan area since late May.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ India recorded its steepest spike of 57,118 new cases in the past 24 hours, taking its coronavirus caseload close to 1.7 million, with July alone accounting for nearly 1.1 million infections. The Health Ministry on Saturday also reported 764 additional deaths for a total of 36,511. India's Civil Aviation Ministry delayed resumption of international flights by another month until Aug. 31. But it will continue to allow several international carriers from the United States, Europe and the Middle East to operate special flights to evacuate stranded nationals. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said Friday that India achieved more than 1 million recoveries with active cases only one-third of the total. India is now conducting more than 640,000 tests in 24 hours, taking cumulative tests across the country to nearly 1.9 million, he said.

■ The Australian state of Victoria has recorded three more deaths from the coronavirus and 397 additional cases, a significant drop from this week's high. Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said he understood the latest deaths were linked to aged care, where 1,008 cases are currently active. They take the national death toll to 201, including 116 in Victoria. Authorities warned that many of those infected were failing to self-isolate at home. Andrews said he was looking at whether there needed to be changes in fines for people who have tested positive but were not at home when military personnel and public health officials came knocking. "A much bigger fine" through the courts is being considered, he said.

■ Japan's capital recorded 472 new coronavirus cases on Saturday, the third straight day of record numbers. Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike issued a warning in an online video, urging people to wash their hands, wear masks and visit those businesses that display the special city-backed stickers with the image of a rainbow, which indicates good social distancing. Most people getting sick were in their 20s and 30s, highlighting how they may be putting their guard down and going out partying, according to officials. Nationwide, the daily count of coronavirus cases in Japan totaled a record 1,579 on Friday.

■ China reported a more than 50% drop in new cases of COVID-19 on Saturday in a possible sign that its latest major outbreak in the northwestern region of Xinjiang may be waning. The 45 new cases over the past 24 hours, 31 of them in Xinjiang, where the outbreak has been focused on the regional capital Urumqi, is down from 127 cases nationally on Friday, including 112 in Xinjiang. The National Health Commission on Saturday also reported eight new cases in the northeastern province of Liaoning, where officials in the port city of Dalian have collected nucleic acid tests on more than 4 million people. Another six cases were brought by Chinese travelers from overseas. In Hong Kong, infections continue to surge with more than 100 new cases reported daily, bringing its total to 2,273 as of Saturday morning, with two new deaths for a total of 27.

■ Vietnam reported more than three dozen new cases of the coronavirus on Saturday, while a third person died of COVID-19 complications a day after the country reported its first-ever death from the disease. Vietnam had been seen as a global success story in combating the coronavirus, with no confirmed cases of local transmission for 99 days.

Indian police make arrests after tainted alcohol kills 69

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian police said they arrested more than two dozen people on suspicion of selling tainted alcohol that killed at least 69 villagers and others in northern Punjab state.

Six police officers and seven other officials have been suspended for failure to prevent the sale of tainted liquor as a magistrate began an investigation into the deaths in three districts.

Police Officer Roshan Lal said Saturday that 69 people died, though local media reports put the number at 86.

The police chief for Punjab state, Dinkar Gupta, said the first five deaths were reported on Wednesday night in two villages in Amritsar district. Over the past three days another 48 deaths were reported Amritsar and two others districts, Tarn Taran and Batala. Lal told The Associated Press.

Gupta said the 25 suspects supplied the tainted alcohol to roadside eateries from where it was sold to travelers and the villagers.

The government statement said the deaths were due to "spurious" liquor and a crackdown on illegal alcohol manufacturing in the state was ordered.

Deaths from illegally brewed alcohol are common in India, where the poor cannot afford licensed brands from government-run shops. Illicit liquor is cheap and often spiked with methanol to increase potency.

In 2019, at least 133 people died after drinking tainted liquor in two separate incidents in India's northeast Assam state. The victims were mostly tea plantation workers. That same year, another 80 people died from tainted liquor in northern Uttar Pradesh state.

World

Iran says it detains leader of California-based exile group

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran on Saturday said it detained an Iranian-American leader of a little-known California-based militant opposition group for allegedly planning a 2008 attack on a mosque that killed 14 people and wounded over 200 others.

AP

In this picture released by an official website of the Office of the Iranian Supreme Leader, supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei addresses the nation in a televised speech marking the Eid al-Adha holiday, in Tehran, Iran, Friday, July 31, 2020.

Iran's Intelligence Ministry also alleged Jamshid Sharmahd of the Kingdom Assembly of Iran planned other attacks around the Islamic Republic amid heightened tensions between Tehran and the U.S. over its collapsing 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

It was unclear how the 65-year-old Sharmahd, whom Iran accused of running the opposition group's Tondar militant wing, ended up detained by intelligence officials. The Intelligence Ministry called it a "complex operation," without elaborating. It published a purported picture of Sharmahd, blindfolded, on its website.

Iranian Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi later appeared on state TV, saying Sharmahd had been arrested in Iran, without elaborating.

Requests for comment sent by email to the Glendora-based Kingdom Assembly of Iran were not immediately answered and a telephone number for the group no longer worked.

The U.S. State Department, which mentioned how Sharmahd earlier had been targeted for assassination in a recent report called "Outlaw Regime: A Chronicle of Iran's Destructive Activities," acknowledged reports of his detention.

"The Iranian regime has a long history of detaining Iranians and foreign nationals on spurious charges," the State Department said in a statement. "We urge Iran to be fully transparent and abide by all international legal standards."

Iranian state television broadcast a report on Sharmahd's arrest, linking him to the 2008 bombing of the Hosseynieh Seyed al-Shohada Mosque in Shiraz. It also said his group was behind a 2010 bombing at Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's mausoleum in Tehran that wounded several people.

The report also alleged without providing evidence that Tondar, or "Thunder" in Farsi, plotted attacks on a dam and planned to use cyanide bombs at Tehran's annual book fair.

State TV later aired footage of Sharmahd interspersed with footage from the moment of the 2008 explosion at the Shiraz mosque. Sharmahd's face appeared swollen and the style of the footage resembled one of what a rights group has identified as over 350 coerced confessions aired by the broadcaster over the last decade.

The Intelligence Ministry has not said what charges Sharmahd will face. Prisoners earlier accused in the same attack were sentenced to death and executed.

The Kingdom Assembly of Iran, known in Farsi as Anjoman-e Padeshahi-e Iran, and Tondar seek to restore Iran's monarchy, which ended when the fatally ill Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi fled the country in 1979 just before its Islamic Revolution. The group's founder disappeared in the mid-2000s.

France starts testing travelers from 16 nations for virus

PARIS (AP)—Travelers entering France from 16 countries where the coronavirus is circulating widely now must undergo virus tests upon arrival at French airports and ports.

French Prime Minister Jean Castex announced last month that the tests would be required starting Aug. 1 for passengers France is allowing in from a list of approved countries unless they present proof of a negative test done within 72 hours of their departure.

Those who test positive in France as of Saturday must quarantine for 14 days.

France is not permitting general travel to and from the 16 countries, which include the United States and Brazil. The testing requirement therefore only applies to people entering under limited circumstances: French citizens who live in these countries or citizens of these countries with an established residence in France.

Daniel Court was tested at Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport after coming in from the French Riviera city of Nice. He acknowledged not loving the experience.

"It's very fast, but I have to say that it's not very pleasant," he said. "But we have to do it."

Another passenger who got tested after landing at Paris' main airport, Nadia Vusik of Belarus, said she thought the new policy made sense.

"It is definitely necessary, and I am happy that in France it is possible to do right here. It's very convenient," she said.

French health authorities say the number of daily confirmed COVID-19 cases has jumped on the French mainland in recent weeks. The government has already made mask-wearing mandatory in all indoor public spaces.

France has had over 225,000 confirmed infections and over 30,200 virus-related deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University, but experts say all numbers in the pandemic are too low for various reasons, including limited testing and missed cases.

The French government has so far ruled out imposing another nationwide lockdown after the one that brought the country to a standstill for nearly two months between March and May.

Health & Wellness

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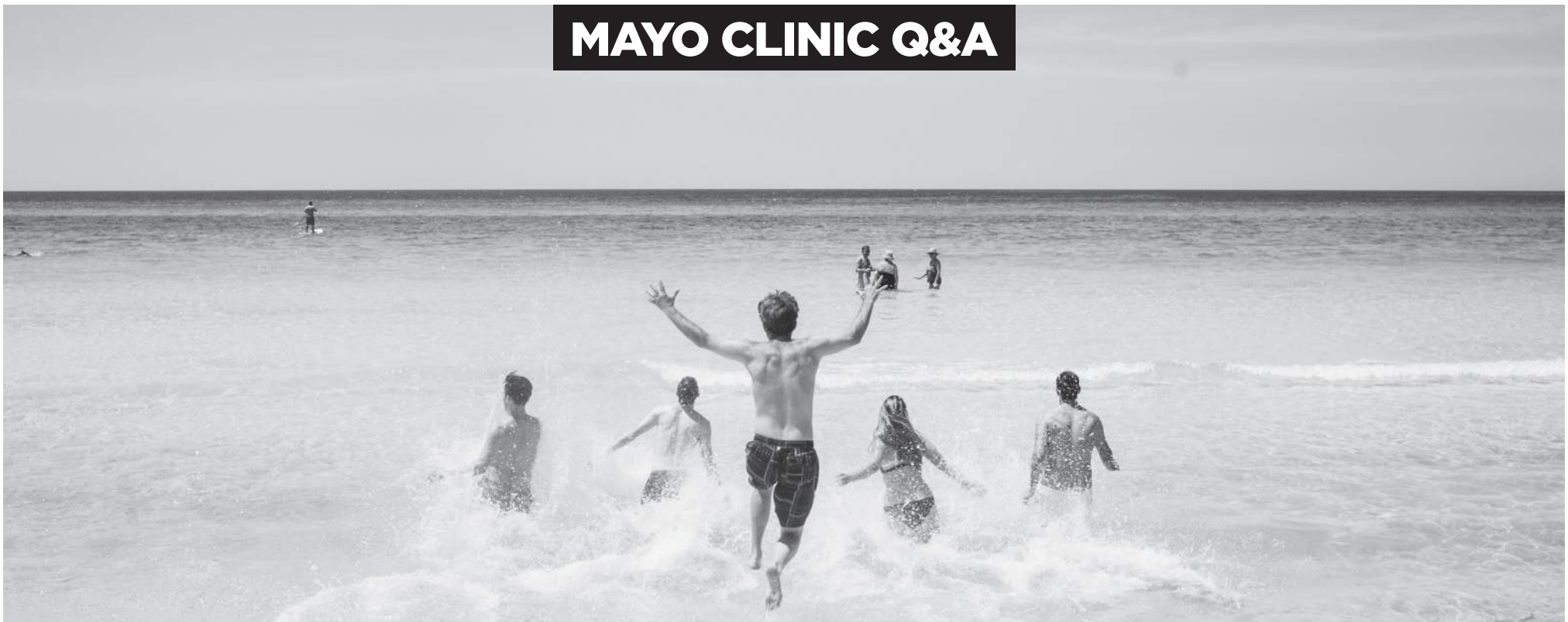
MAYO CLINIC Q&A



Exercise is **important** for **body, mind**

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: Can I continue to exercise even if I don't feel well, or should I hold off until I start to feel better?

ANSWER: The answer to that question depends largely on what's wrong. For example, if you have symptoms of the common cold, it's usually fine to keep exercising. It may even help you feel a little better. If you have a fever or other more severe symptoms, it's best to put your exercise routine on hold until those symptoms go away.

Exercise is important for your body and mind. Regular exercise can help you maintain a healthy weight, keep your blood sugar and blood cholesterol levels in check, increase bone strength and help manage stress, just to name a few benefits.

For healthy adults, the recommendation is 150 minutes of aerobic exercise each week. That includes activities such as running, biking, jogging, swimming, brisk walking and dancing. Many people break up their weekly aerobic activity into 30-minute sessions, five days a week. In addition, your exercise routine should include at least two 20- to 30-minute sessions of strength training a week, which many people have a tendency to forget. Remember, too, that even if you don't get to the recommended level of exercise sometimes, any amount of exercise, even if it's just 10 minutes of walking, has benefits.

When you're not feeling well, it's still fine to exercise in some cases. A good rule of thumb to follow is if you have symptoms above the neck, such as a runny nose, sneezing, nasal congestion or a minor sore throat, you're OK to exercise. In those cases, exercise may even help you feel better by opening up your nasal passages. However, you may want to reduce the intensity and length of your workout, and limit group activities.

Instead of running, for example, go for a walk. If you work out when you're having some symptoms of illness, make sure you stay attuned to your body's need for fluid. Drink to your level of thirst. Be aware that if it's warm outside, you may need to take in more fluid than usual.

If you have symptoms of illness that affect you below the neck, such as chest congestion, a hacking cough, muscle aches, fatigue or an upset stomach, it's best to take a break from exercising for a few days.

If you have a fever, you also should give your body some time to rest and recover. A fever is your body's way of telling you to slow down, and it's important to listen to that. As you recover after these kinds of symptoms, go a bit slower and decrease the intensity of your workout when you return to exercising.

Due to the current recommendations for social distancing during the COVID-19 outbreak, your fitness center may be closed. Even if it's not, you may want consider skipping the gym and take your workout outdoors instead, or explore new exercise options that you can do at home. Regardless of where you exercise, don't forget to wipe off equipment, including bikes, weights, benches and yoga mats, after you're done with them.

If you exercise when you're not feeling well, and then you experience additional pain or symptoms when you exercise—or if you have other concerns or questions about exercising when you're ill—talk with your health care provider. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

Dr. Daniel Montero, Orthopedic Surgery, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida

Is it safe for your kid to attend summer camp during coronavirus? Here's what experts say

By SUMMER LIN
MIAMI HERALD

As the coronavirus continues to infect new people every day, summer camps are considering the best way to keep children safe this year. Some have decided to go virtual and others have been canceled entirely.

"The cancellation of camp this summer is profoundly disappointing for all of us after what already feels like an eternity of frustration and uncertainty," Shannon Donovan-Monti, executive director at Chimney Corners Camp in western Massachusetts, wrote in an email, according to NPR. "There are no words that can take away the heartbreak of depriving our children and ourselves of something that has given us such joy and connection to others."

At least 22 summer camps have decided to go the virtual route this summer, USA Today reported.

The American Camp Association and the YMCA have released a "field guide" for how summer camps should decide whether to open and try to adopt safer practices during the pandemic, according to NPR.

The guide says that camp should only open when the locations meet the "Phase 2" and "Phase 3" requirements for reopening as outlined by the Trump administration and if local and state governments allow for it.

Camps should also screen campers and staff for COVID-19 symptoms and have them self-report, take temperatures daily, and send anyone home who is sick, according to the guide.

The CDC has also issued a one-page guidance that says summer camps shouldn't open unless it's allowed by state and local governments, camps are capable of protecting people with high risk of getting severe illness, and can screen children and employees at the camp.

The CDC recommends that camps promote regular hand-washing and other hygiene practices, ramp up cleaning and disinfection, encourage social distancing, and limit sharing of toys, belongings and equipment.

Other summer activities, such as running, walking, and biking outdoors, can be safe if proper social distancing is applied, experts say.

It's safe to go running and walking outside "assuming they follow the actual social distancing guidelines," Dr. Aaron E. Glatt, chairman of the department of medicine and hospital epidemiologist at Mount Sinai South Nassau, told CNBC.

COVID-19 spreads through respiratory droplets, and people who don't display symptoms can also spread the disease, so you should maintain at least 6 feet of distance from people while running and wear a face mask while out in public, according to CNBC.

Germs dissipate when you're outdoors, but you should still keep up with social distancing, Glatt told CNBC.

As long as you're not in a high-risk group, are social distancing at least 6 feet from others, and are wearing a mask, you have a low risk of getting the virus while biking or running outdoors, according to Vox.

"The risks of virus transmissibility in the air outdoors is likely quite low in those contexts, although this risk hasn't been definitively measured," Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at Columbia University, told Vox. "Outside, things like sunlight, wind, rain, ambient temperature, and humidity can affect virus infectivity and transmissibility, so while we can't say there's zero risk, it's likely low unless you are engaging in activities as part of a large crowd (such as a protest). Solitary outdoor exercise is likely low-risk."

Life & Style

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Writer Milan Kundera donating archive to Czech library

PRAGUE (AP)—Milan Kundera, the 91-year-old author of "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" and other acclaimed novels, has decided to donate his private library and archive to a public library in the Czech city where he was born and spent his childhood. The Moravian Library in the city of Brno said Thursday that the entire collection would be transported from Kundera's apartment in Paris in the fall. The donated items include editions of Kundera's books in Czech and some 40 other languages, articles written by and about him, published reviews and criticism of his work, newspapers clippings, authorized photographs and drawings by the author.

Everything will be made available to the public, mostly in digital versions, the library said.

Czech Culture Minister Lubomir Zaoralek welcomed the move, calling it "an extraordinary cultural event."

UK rapper Solo 45 sentenced to 24 years for violent rapes

LONDON (AP)—British grime musician Solo 45 was sentenced Thursday to 24 years in prison for raping four women in what police said was among the most violent sexual behavior they had seen. The rapper, whose real name is Andy Anokye, was convicted of 30 charges, including 21 rapes and five counts of false imprisonment. Anokye claimed his violent acts—waterboarding, interrogating, assaulting and raping his victims—were part of consensual role play. But a jury at Bristol Crown Court in southwest England convicted him in March of all but one charge against him. Sentencing him on Thursday, judge William Hart said Anokye had "no empathy" for the women he abused.

RI issues tax refunds signed by Walt Disney, Mickey Mouse

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Rhode Island mistakenly sent more than 175 tax refund checks signed by Walt Disney and Mickey Mouse, rather than the state treasurer and controller. The Rhode Island Division of Taxation uses the signatures on test files, which were mistakenly printed on the real checks and sent out on Monday, a spokesperson told WPRI-TV. "No other signature lines were printed besides the two," said Jade Borgeson, chief of staff for the Rhode Island Department of Revenue, which includes the taxation division. Mickey Mouse is the cartoon character that was animator and producer Walt Disney's first big hit. The checks were tax refunds for corporate, sales and tax credits mostly to businesses, WJAR-TV reported. The tax division has voided the checks and will issue new checks signed by General Treasurer Seth Magaziner and State Controller Peter Keenan within one week, Borgeson said.

In an upside-down summer, 'Jaws,' 'E.T.' are hits again

AP

his image released by Universal Pictures shows, from left, Laura Dern, Joseph Mazzello and Sam Neill in a scene from the 1993 film "Jurassic Park."

NEW YORK (AP)—When historians look back on the top films at the box office in the summer of 2020, they may feel like they've slipped into a time warp, or maybe "Back to the Future."

Over the second weekend in July, "Empire Strikes Back"—40 years after it was first released—was again No. 1. "Ghostbusters" claimed the July 4th weekend, 36 years after opening. Over the June 19-21 weekend and 27 years after it last led the box office, "Jurassic Park" again ruled theaters.

In a pandemic that has resurrected all kinds of vintage pastimes, from puzzles to drive-ins, even the blockbusters are retro. That is much out of necessity. About 1,000 theaters in the U.S. are currently open, just about a sixth of the nation's cinemas. That includes the approximately 300 drive-ins that have, since the multiplexes shuttered in March, hosted the majority of moviegoing.

With all major new releases postponed until at least Labor Day weekend, summer moviegoing has again belonged to the classics—the kinds of films that, for many, remain as indelibly linked to the season as E.T. is to Elliott. Brian Keasey, a 44-year-old in Montrose, Colorado, has been going every week, when he's not playing movies on his backyard screen.

"I saw 'Jaws' on the big screen. I saw 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' on the big screen. I saw my childhood on the big screen," said Keasey a few hours before heading to a double-feature of "Ghostbusters" and "The Rental," a new indie horror film by Dave Franco.

This is American moviegoing in the summer of 2020. A nostalgic trip to the drive-in. A white sheet hung off the patio. The comforting reunion with a great white shark. Keasey says he's seen "Jaws" three times this summer, including once on a screen improvised next to a pond.

"It's the classic summer blockbuster. It's gorgeous. You can freeze frame any piece of that movie and it's a perfect slice of 1975 America," says Keasey. "I feel like those movies of the '70s and '80s had character development. Now, it's 100% right out the gate. There's no room to breathe anymore."

Among catalog films, "Jurassic Park" has led them all with a bit more than $3 million in ticket sales this summer, according to several people who have seen box-office grosses. The major studios have declined to report ticket sales during the pandemic. The numbers, naturally, are extremely paltry compared to the usual billions generated in Hollywood's prime season.

The unreported grosses for newer releases like "Trolls World Tour" and "Onward" exceed those of the repertory releases. But the likes of "Jaws," "E.T.," "Goonies" and "Ghostbusters" rank among the summer's top draws.

That vacuum has led to some unlikely heavyweights at the box office this summer. The low-budget IFC Films horror film "The Wretched" led all reported films for seven straight weekends in May and early June, a stretch that matches the run of "Avatar." It's made $1.8 million in 13 weeks, an impressive total for a film made for less than $100,000.

Mission Tiki, the four-screen, Polynesian-themed drive-in in Montclair, California, outside Los Angeles and flanked by the San Gabriel Mountains, also turned into the epicenter of U.S. moviegoing. DeAnza Land and Leisure, which owns Mission Tiki and five other drive-ins, outranks all other circuits with 32% of the market share.

Slow payment for bookkeeping is costing family its harmony

DEAR ABBY: I take care of my daughter-in-law's taxes and have for the past 15 years. I have never charged her for it. When she brings me the paperwork, it is always a mess. I told her I would be her full-time bookkeeper and charge her $300 a month, but it's like getting blood from a turnip. I have to beg her each month for my pay.

My husband said I should stop doing it for her. What should I do? I feel that this is driving a wedge between us. She owns a small construction cleaning service and makes good money.

GOOD WITH FIGURES IN FLORIDA

DEAR GOOD: Your daughter-in-law may resent the fact that you want payment for keeping her finances in order, but I'll bet you're charging far less than a nonfamily member would. It's time to tell her that dunning her for money every month has become too stressful. Suggest that she set up an automatic fund transfer to your account to cover the monthly fee. If she's unwilling to do that, then your husband has the right idea and it would be better for both of you if she hired someone else for these services.

DEAR ABBY: One of my dearest friends has a nasty habit of making snide comments about people who are overweight. We've been friends for more than 40 years, and she has always been this way.

Now that I'm older, I have packed on a few pounds myself, and when she says these things in a conversation, I'm like, "Hey, I'm overweight too! Am I disgusting?" I can't seem to find the words to get her to think about what she says.

It doesn't really hurt my feelings, but it makes her sound like a horrible person, and she really isn't. She's a dear in almost every other respect. I would like to get her to stop this, so what's your advice?

FRIEND HAS A FAULT

DEAR FRIEND: The next time she does it, say out loud, "Hey, I'm overweight, too! Am I disgusting like you say about those other people? I have listened to this for 40 years and enough is enough! You are sweet, but when you say those things, you come across as nasty and judgmental. So cut it out!" (Better late than never.)

DEAR ABBY: I am 41, divorced for the second time, and I have fallen madly in love with a wonderful man. He got out of a 12-year relationship six months ago. Until just last week he still had ties with her, but he finally washed his hands of her. The only thing is, he lied to her to avoid a confrontation. He couldn't bring himself to stand up to her and tell her the truth.

It hurts me deeply, and it has forced a wedge between us. He doesn't understand why it hurts me so much, and he doesn't seem to care. I'm trying to shake it, but it's hard to do. I just need someone to help me get over it. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

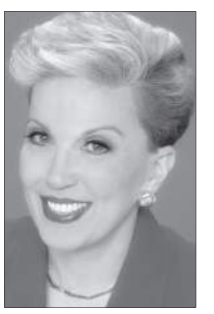
HEARTBROKEN IN TENNESSEE

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: I wish you had revealed what this gentleman is afraid to tell his ex. Could it be that he is involved with you? If so, this is a red flag. His unwillingness or inability to tell the truth is a serious character flaw and not something you should ignore.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

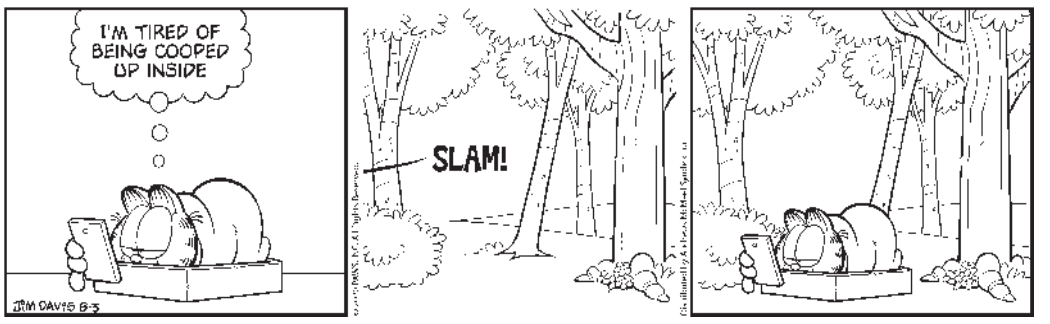
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DON'T YOU GET HOT WEARING LONG PANTS IN THE SUMMER? WHY DON'T YOU WEAR SHORT PANTS?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT DID I SAY?
SHORT PANTS TOUCH MY FEET, OK?!!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



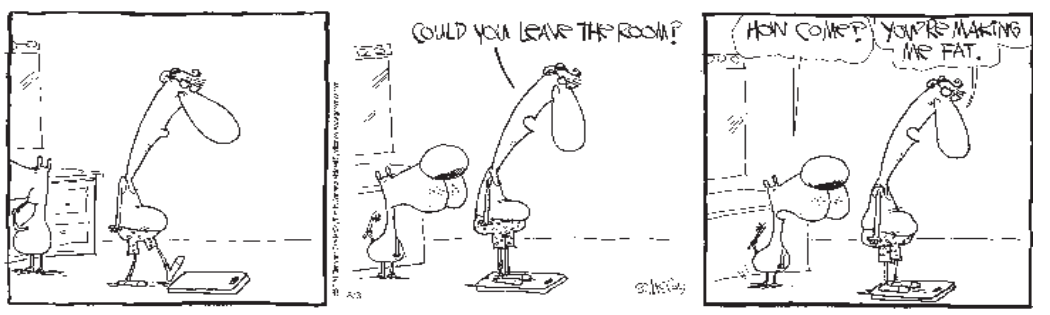
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I'M GONNA GO GET ZEN IN THE POOL.
YEP. THE WORLD'S A LITTLE CRAZY. WE NEED TO TREAT OURSELVES.
LITTLE REWARDS TO MAKE US FEEL JUST A LITTLE BETTER ABOUT...
FINE. GO GRAB YOURSELF AN ICE CREAM SANDWICH.
WOO! MENTAL HEALTH FOR THE WIN!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Clothing protector
4 Flow out
7 Pride parade initials
11 Exploits
13 — of 1812
14 Prof's employer
15 Move, in Realtor-speak
16 "Strange Magic" gp.
17 Crazy
18 Kingdom
20 "— deal!"
22 Satisfied sigh
24 Medal earners
28 Alabama neighbor
32 Sufficient
33 Suffix for million
34 Glutton
36 Brewer's kiln
37 Dinner prayer
39 Scribbled drawings
41 eBay user
43 Capote nickname
44 Furniture brand
46 Sales receipts
50 Kennel cry
53 Egyptian cobra
55 Novelist Hunter
56 Elevator name
57 Conk out
58 Mystery writer Paretsky
59 Labyrinth
60 Droop
61 Snooze

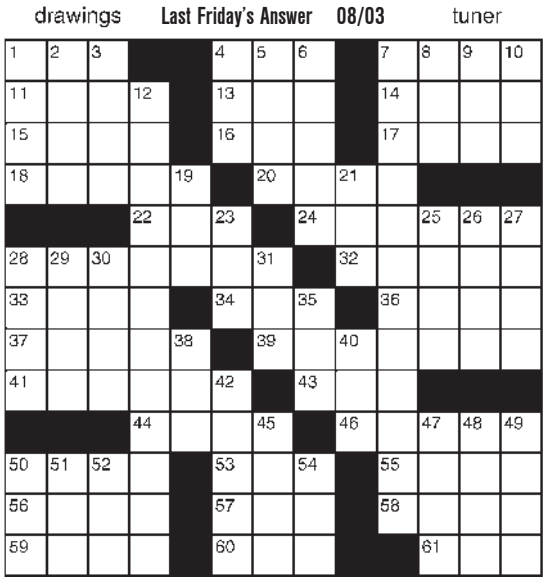
DOWN

1 Duelist Aaron
2 "Got it"
3 Lugosi of film
4 Lamb's mama
5 Indonesian island
6 Soup stock
7 NASA moon vehicles
8 Bearded antelope
9 Iota
10 Boob tubes
12 Light-blocking event
19 Periodical, for short
21 Red or Black
23 Trendy
25 Milky gem
26 Otherwise
27 Collector's goals
28 Jokes
29 Ireland
30 Like some vaccines
31 Help
35 Obtained
38 "A mouse!"
40 Hosp. areas
42 Peruses
45 Nepal's continent
47 Tennis great Lendl
48 Law firm aide, for short
49 Crisp cookie
50 — Kippur
51 JFK info
52 Actress Taylor
54 Violin tuner

Solution time: 26 mins.

R	E	L	A	Y		R	B	I		B	A	T
C	R	O	D	E		C	O	N		O	P	E
P	A	C	E	S		L	O	C	K	B	O	X
		K	E	E	P	A	T			C	U	S
A	L	E		S	E	T		T	A	P	E	S
B	E	T	S		P	E	A	R	L			
A	I	S	L	E	S		R	E	A	L	M	S
			O	R	I	O	N		S	O	A	R
W	A		V	E		D	I	S		C	S	
E	C	N	A		D	E	E	P	A	K		
L	O	C	K	E	R	S		I	R	O	N	S
D	R	U		L	A	S		N	E	U	R	O
S	E	R		M	B	A		S	A	T	A	N

Last Friday's Answer 08/03



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chandler Kenney, 20; Evangeline Lilly, 41; Michael Ealy, 47; Tony Bennett, 94.

Happy Birthday: Adapt, and keep moving forward. You can't stand in the way of progress, but you can look for ways to engage and make it work to your benefit. Keeping up will play a major role in how well you do and the rewards you receive. Call the shots, own your destiny and focus on building a secure future. Your numbers are 8, 19, 24, 27, 32, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Stymie anxiety or anger you are feeling by taking on a physical challenge. Call on those you know and trust to help you make the changes that will propel you in the direction you want to pursue. Personal improvement is favored. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* If you want to change, it's up to you to make it happen. Don't sit around, waiting for someone to step in and take over. Put your emotions aside, and do what you need to do. Strive for stability. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Learn from the mistakes others make. Don't fall into a pattern that will hold you back. Pay less attention to what others do, and spend more time mapping out how to get ahead. Knowledge and who you associate with will determine your future. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep your eye on the money. Spend less, and keep joint holdings under control. Don't take a risk when it comes to business, health or contracts. Anger solves nothing, but discipline and hard work will lead to success. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Put drama aside. If you let your emotions take over, you will be left behind. The best way to handle change is to find a way to fit in and to benefit in any way possible. Think big, be positive and forge ahead. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take a moment to contemplate your next move before making a change that can influence how you live or work. Keep your emotions out of the equation, or you may end up triggering a chain reaction that does more harm than good. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Look beyond what's right in front of you. Focus on being positive, and align yourself with people who motivate you, not those who are demanding or argumentative. Expand your mind, and pursue creative endeavors. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Put practicality first and emotions second. When in doubt, gather the facts before you take action. Given a chance, someone will mislead you. Let your intuition be your guide. Learn from experience, and let success be your revenge. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Pay attention to what's going on at home and with meaningful relationships. Outside interference will cause problems between you and someone you love. Focus on domestic matters and self-improvement projects. Choose peace and love over discord. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't agree to something you don't want. It's essential to speak up and offer solutions that will benefit everyone. Take control, and you will bring about positive change and better relationships. A possible change, along with compromise, will improve your home life. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pay close attention to the way you look, how you feel and how you present yourself to the world. You'll have an impact on those who look up to you if you are understanding. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Do what's best for everyone. A change based on emotional influences will create a problem with someone close to you. Consideration, trust and honesty will make matters more comfortable to deal with as you move forward. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, spirited, insightful and unpredictable. You are adventuresome and challenging.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3			1	9	2			7
		6				3		
	4		6				5	
9			7	2	3	1		5
8								2
7		5	9	8	1			6
	9				8		1	
		3				7		
5			4	1	6			3

Difficulty Level ★ 8/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	1	4	5	7	9	8	2	3
8	2	9	1	6	3	4	5	7
3	5	7	8	4	2	1	6	9
5	9	3	2	1	4	7	8	6
7	4	2	3	8	6	9	1	5
1	8	6	7	9	5	3	4	2
2	7	1	6	3	8	5	9	4
4	3	5	9	2	1	6	7	8
9	6	8	4	5	7	2	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/31

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HAND SANITIZERS — Solution: 10 letters

K	E	N	C	A	T	R	E	E	S	A	P	I	E	P
D	C	D	G	L	A	S	S	E	S	L	I	N	R	A
E	E	A	L	L	E	R	U	P	S	P	L	H	A	O
S	G	L	T	N	B	A	B	Y	G	A	N	I	C	S
E	E	A	O	T	H	A	N	D	S	A	N	B	P	N
P	S	T	R	N	A	Y	S	W	S	L	L	I	K	S
I	E	H	N	O	A	M	G	M	E	M	T	T	E	T
W	C	S	P	E	T	T	R	I	A	L	E	S	S	C
E	N	E	C	U	I	S	U	E	E	O	L	L	E	E
C	A	R	R	L	M	L	D	R	Ⓖ	N	F	L	L	F
A	R	F	S	E	E	P	L	I	A	Ⓔ	E	I	T	N
F	G	N	Y	E	F	A	S	O	U	L	Ⓛ	F	T	I
R	A	E	S	R	O	R	R	I	M	Q	R	E	O	S
U	R	U	B	B	I	N	G	A	B	E	I	R	B	I
S	F	L	A	M	M	A	B	L	E	P	A	L	M	D

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Acne, Babyganics, Bag, Bottles, Care, CleanWell, Clear, Delon, Disinfects, Emollient, Enfresh, Flammable, Foam, Fragrances, Free, Gel, Germ Attack, Glasses, HandSan, Hygiene, Inhibits, Kills, Liquids, Mirrors, Mrs. Meyers, Natural, Palm, Pumps, Purell, Refill, Rubbing, Safe, Smell, Soap, Spills, Storage, Surface, Tips, Tree Sap, Wet Ones, Wipes

Last Friday's Answer: Freshwater

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Lowry scores 33 to lead Raptors over Lakers

AP
Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, left, and JR Smith, right, guard Toronto Raptors' Kyle Lowry during the second half of an NBA game Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Kyle Lowry had 33 points and a career-high 14 rebounds and the defending NBA champion Toronto Raptors restarted their season by beating the slow-starting Los Angeles Lakers for the 11th straight time, 107-92 on Saturday night.

OG Anunoby scored 23 points for the Raptors, the second-place team in the Eastern Conference. They haven't lost to Los Angeles since the 2014-2015 season.

Lowry had a strong second half to help turn back a surge by the Lakers, the Western Conference leaders who are 1-1 in the restart. The Lakers' magic number for clinching the top seed in the West remains at one.

Lowry's biggest shot was a 3-pointer from the right wing for a 97-86 lead with 3:01 to play.

"He was vintage Kyle tonight," coach Nick Nurse said. "He was scoring and flying around and taking charges and competing and getting us some critical buckets. He was great."

Lowry was all for a full-speed reentry.

"Nick says he's going to kind of ease us back in and use it as an exhibition," Lowry said. "We've got too many competitive guys that want to go out there and play and hoop and win games, especially against the guys like the Lakers and with the team that's No. 1 in the West. The competitive juices get going."

LeBron James had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Anthony Davis had just 14 points after he scored 34 in a win against the Los Angeles Clippers in their first game back on Thursday night. Kyle Kuzma scored 16.

The Lakers shot a season-low 35.4% from the field.

"I don't think there's anything you can do better," James said. "You execute your offense to get the best shot and we did that tonight. We went 10 for 40 from the 3-point line. I believe a lot of those 40 3s are great looks after getting to the point, knowing what they're going to give up. We just have to step up and knock them down."

James hit consecutive 3-pointers for a 76-72 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Anunoby responded with consecutive 3s for a 78-76 lead. The Raptors continued to pull away and Anunoby made a layup for a 90-83 lead.

With James and Davis struggling, the Raptors jumped to a 13-0 lead behind Anunoby and Lowry before the Lakers got back into it behind their bench.

The Lakers' reserves outscored the Raptors 13-2 in the first quarter and 31-6 in the first half to help Los Angeles to a 44-41 halftime lead. Kuzma had nine points and Alex Caruso seven.

James had seven points and Davis just one in the first half.

The Raptors "did a great job of really making other people beat them," Kuzma said. "I think for most of the game they double-teamed Anthony and LeBron in the post and kind of left a lot of guys open to make some shots. We just didn't hit shots tonight. We got what we wanted, great shots, open shots. It was tough for us to hit 'em."

Pacers 127, 76ers 121

T.J. Warren scored a career-high 53 points, Victor Oladipo added 15 after reversing course on opting out of the NBA restart and Indiana beat Philadelphia.

A sixth-year player acquired from Phoenix in an offseason trade, Warren was 20 of 29 from the field and 9 of 12 from 3-point range in his first game with at least 50 points.

The Pacers took control of the fifth seed in the Eastern Conference by breaking a tie with the 76ers and winning the season series. Both teams have clinched playoff spots.

Joel Embiid had 41 points and 21 rebounds for the 76ers. Tobias Harris scored 30 points, and Ben Simmons had 19 points and 13 rebounds.

Clippers 126, Pelicans 103

Paul George made three straight 3-pointers in the opening minutes and scored 28 points for the Clippers in a victory over New Orleans.

Los Angeles broke a franchise record by making 25 of 47 3-pointers, with George making 8 of 11. The Clippers also tied a team record for 3-pointers in a half and fell one short of the NBA record by hitting 16 of 24 in racing to a 77-45 lead.

Los Angeles made its first six 3-pointers to take a 20-6 lead.

Kawhi Leonard had 24 points to help the Clippers bounce back from a 103-101 loss to LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday night in their first game of the restart.

The Pelicans had a minor scare midway through the first half when rookie Zion Williamson stepped on Reggie Jackson's foot and appeared to slightly roll his right ankle while driving to the basket, ending up on his backside under the basket. He got up with a slight limp and was subbed out, then returned for the start of the second half.

Williamson finished with seven points and four rebounds in 14 minutes. Nickeil Alexander-Walker scored 15 points for New Orleans.

Thunder 110, Jazz 94

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 19 points, Chris Paul added 18 and Oklahoma City rolled past Utah in their first game of the restart.

The teams were to meet on March 11 in Oklahoma City, but everything changed when Utah center Rudy Gobert's COVID-19 test came up positive right before the tip. That night, the NBA announced it would shut down indefinitely.

Steven Adams had 16 points and 11 rebounds, Danilo Gallinari added 15 points and the Thunder shot 53% from the field. Oklahoma City moved within a half-game of the Jazz for fourth place in the Western Conference standings and within 1 1/2 games of Denver for third.

Donovan Mitchell scored 13 points for the Jazz but shot just 5 for 15. Utah shot 39% from the field.

Heat 125, Nuggets 104

Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo each scored 22 points to help Miami beat Denver in the first restart game for both teams.

Heat center Meyers Leonard stood during the national anthem, saying it was out of respect for the U.S. military, while all the coaches and players around him kneeled. His brother, Bailey Leonard, served two tours in Afghanistan with the Marines. Leonard wore a Black Lives Matter T-shirt over a jersey that said "Equality."

Kelly Olynyk scored all of his 20 points in the fourth quarter for Miami, The Heat shot 56% from the field.

Nikola Jokic and Jerami Grant each scored 19 points for Denver. The Nuggets played without guards Jamal Murray (hamstring), Will Barton (knee) and Gary Harris (hip).

USTA still preparing for US Open amid virus spike

NEW YORK (AP)—As coronavirus cases spike in other parts of the country a month before the U.S. Open is supposed to start in New York, the U.S. Tennis Association said Friday it ''continues its plans'' to hold its marquee event and another tournament beforehand.

The U.S. Open—usually the year's last Grand Slam tournament, but the second of 2020 because of the pandemic—is scheduled to run Aug. 31 to Sept. 13.

The Billie Jean King National Tennis Center also will host the Western & Southern Open on Aug. 20-28; that tuneup was moved from Cincinnati as part of a doubleheader organized by the USTA.

Players will be allowed on-site on Aug. 16.

A statement released Friday by the USTA said: ''We remain confident that our top priority, the health and safety of all involved in both tournaments, remains on track.''

What is unclear at this point is which players will participate. While Serena Williams and Naomi Osaka have said she will be at both events, for example, current women's No. 1 Ash Barty is staying away. Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal have not made their plans known.

The USTA statement added that details of its health and safety plan will be released closer to the start of competition. The group said it is working with the WTA and ATP tours.

The USTA is putting most players and their limited entourages in specific hotels - creating something of a bubble environment - but also is allowing participants to rent private houses.

Professional tennis has been on hiatus since March because of the coronavirus outbreak. The women's tour is supposed to return next week with a tournament in Palermo, Italy.

''New York State continues to be one of the safest places in the country as it relates to the COVID-19 virus,'' the USTA said.

That's now true—although the area was a major U.S. hot spot early in the pandemic, so much so that a building at the U.S. Open site was used as a temporary hospital.

New York hospitals saw more than 18,000 patients with COVID-19 at a time in mid-April when infections surged and more than 750 patients with the illness died each day in hospitals and nursing homes. Those figures plunged in May, and rates of hospitalizations and new positive COVID-19 cases have been relatively stable since June.

''We are constantly and continually monitoring the situation. Right now in New York, the situation has improved dramatically. The state has done a tremendous job containing the coronavirus,'' USTA spokesman Chris Widmaier said. ''We also are making tremendous progress in international travel, not only for coming to New York but traveling from here to Europe and elsewhere.''

Judge homers as Yanks extend streak to 5

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge homered for a career-high fourth straight game, Gio Urshela hit his first career grand slam and the New York Yankees continued their hot start to the abbreviated season with a 5-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Saturday night.

The Yankees won their fifth straight thanks to the early power by Judge and Urshela and now have 14 homers in their first seven games while getting off to a 6-1 start.

Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run double off Masahiro Tanaka as Boston lost for the 10th time in its last 11 games at Yankee Stadium, including the fifth straight.

Tanaka returned from a mild concussion—sustained when he was struck by a line drive by Giancarlo Stanton on July 4—and allowed two runs on three hits in 2 2/3 innings. He struck out three, walked one, threw 51 pitches and was lifted after Bogaerts doubled.

AP

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge, left, celebrates with Giancarlo Stanton after hitting a solo home run off Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Zack Godley during the first inning of a baseball game Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, in New York.

Angels 5, Astros 4 10 innings

Michael Hermosillo's sacrifice fly scored Matt Thaiss from third base in the bottom of the 10th inning to lift Los Angeles over Houston.

The Angels began the 10th with Thaiss on second base, and David Fletcher moved him to third with a single to right field. After Brian Goodwin struck out and Anthony Rendon was intentionally walked, Hermosillo lifted a fly ball to right field off Nivaldo Rodriguez (0-1) deep enough to score Thaiss and give the Angels the win.

Astros starter Zack Greinke was sharp from the outset. He was perfect through 5 1/3 innings, retiring the first 16 batters he faced until Taylor Ward singled with one out in the sixth.

Dodgers 11, Diamondbacks 2

Los Angeles powered up for four home runs, including a three-run shot from Chris Taylor, on its way past Arizona.

Edwin Rios and Matt Beatty made the most of their infrequent chance to be in the lineup, each hitting a home run, and AJ Pollock added a two-run shot. Justin Turner just missed a home run, settling for a two-run triple, and hot-hitting Corey Seager had two hits.

Seager has reached base in all nine Dodgers games.

Athletics 3, Mariners 2 10 innings

Robbie Grossman's one-out double scored pinch-runner Tony Kemp from second base in the 10th inning as Oakland rallied to win.

Chad Pinder hit a two-run homer as the A's snapped a three-game losing streak and put an end to the Mariners' three-game winning streak.

Oakland reliever Joakim Soria (1-0) escaped a jam in the ninth inning to get the victory.

Orioles 5, Rays 4 11 innings

Pat Valaika hit a soft, walk-off single into short right field to give host Baltimore a victory over Tampa Bay.

Valaika came up with runners on first and third and two outs and blooped his single to right off Chaz Roe, who had just replaced Oliver Drake (0-2). The Orioles had a 4-1 lead heading into the eighth but couldn't hold it.

Cubs 4, Pirates 3

Tyler Chatwood tied his career high of 11 strikeouts while tossing 6 2/3 shutout innings to help Chicago defeat Pittsburgh.

Ian Happ and Javier Baez hit solo homers, and Kyle Schwarber smacked a two-run shot as the Cubs won their second straight game and fifth in the past six.

The right-handed Chatwood (2-0) gave up three hits and walked two in a 96-pitch effort. He has fanned 19 and allowed one run and six hits in 12 2/3 innings over his first two starts.

Twins 3, Indians 0

Miguel Sano hit two home runs, and Kenta Maeda allowed just an infield hit over six innings as Minnesota blanked Cleveland.

Eddie Rosario also homered, and Marwin Gonzalez added two hits for the Twins, who won their second straight over the Indians after getting blanked, 2-0, in Thursday night's series opener.

Maeda (2-0) struck out six and was brilliant in his Target Field debut, holding Cleveland hitless for 4 1/3 innings before Bradley Zimmer barely beat out an infield chopper that had a 40.5 mph exit velocity to second baseman Luis Arraez. Minnesota challenged the safe call, but after a lengthy replay review, the play stood.

Braves 7, Mets 1

Left fielder Marcell Ozuna continued his torrid hitting with a home run to lead Atlanta past visiting New York for its fourth straight win.

The winning pitcher was Josh Tomlin (1-0), who threw 2 1/3 scoreless innings in relief. Tomlin did not allow a hit and struck out three.

The losing pitcher was Mets starter Michael Wacha (1-1), who continued to struggle against the Braves.

Rockies 6, Padres 1

Trevor Story homered for the second straight game among two hits, Matt Kemp went long for the first time as a member of the Rockies, and Colorado beat San Diego.

Kyle Freeland (2-0) tossed six shutout innings, Chris Owings had three hits and Charlie Blackmon had two for the Rockies, who have won six of their last seven.

Trent Grisham homered for one of only three hits by the Padres, who had their modest two-game winning streak snapped.

Giants 7, Rangers 3

Donovan Solano broke a tie with a two-run single in the third inning, and seven San Francisco pitchers combined to limit Texas to one run over the final eight frames to make it two straight wins in the interleague series.

The Rangers scored two runs off Giants starter Drew Smyly on Todd Frazier's single in the first, but didn't score until again Scott Heineman's solo home run in the ninth.

White Sox 11, Royals 5

Eloy Jimenez's three-run home run keyed a four-run first inning as Chicago pummeled host Kansas City, setting up a chance to go for the three-game sweep Sunday.

With White Sox starter Gio Gonzalez lasting less than four innings, right-handed reliever Matt Foster (1-0) picked up the win in his major league debut.

Ronald Bolanos (0-2) took the loss for Kansas City after allowing five runs on five hits in 1 2/3 innings. His wild pitch scored one run in the first inning, and then Jimenez added his blast.

Text to Pac-12 players encourages possible opt-out

NEW YORK (AP)—A text message circulating among Pac-12 football players is encouraging them to opt-out of practices and games until they can negotiate protections and benefits related to health and safety, economic rights, and the fight against racial injustice.

ESPN first reported the possible movement among players at multiple Pac-12 schools and The Athletic published the text invitation. The text says a public announcement, along with a list of demands, will be published Monday through The Players Tribune and social media platforms.

"Our goal is obtain a written contract with the Pac-12 that legally ensures we are offered the following protections and benefits."

Listed are: Ensure safe play during COVID-19; Fight racial injustice; Secure economic rights and fair compensation; Protect all sports; and Obtain long-term health insurance

The Pac-12 on Friday announced its plan to delay the start of the season to Sept. 26 and play only 10 conference games in an attempt manage potential disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic. The states of California and Arizona, home to half the Pac-12 teams, have experienced some of the worst surges in coronavirus cases over the last month.

The Pac-12 approved a plan that will allow teams in the conference to start 20 hours per week of team activities, including weight training, meetings and noncontact practices known as walk-throughs. Preseason practice in the Pac-12 is scheduled to start Aug. 17, but currently Southern California, UCLA and California are operating under local restrictions that would prevent their football teams from practicing.

"Neither the Conference nor our university athletics departments have been contacted by this group regarding these topics," the Pac-12 said in a statement. "We support our student-athletes using their voices, and have regular communications with our student-athletes at many different levels on a range of topics. As we have clearly stated with respect to our fall competition plans, we are, and always will be, directed by medical experts with health, safety and well-being of our student athletes, coaches and staff always the first priority. We have made it clear that any student who chooses not to return to competition for health and safety reasons will have their scholarship protected."

Also on Saturday, The Washington Post reported on a meeting between player representatives from Southeastern Conference teams and the league's commissioner, Greg Sankey, and medial advisers. The Post obtained an audio recording of the meeting.

"For so much unknown in the air right now, is it worth having a football season without certainty?" an unidentified player asked.

Sankey responded: "Part of our work is to bring as much certainty in the midst of this really strange time as we can so you can play football in the most healthy way possible, with the understanding there aren't any guarantees in life."

Belichick mum on plans for QB position as camp nears

BOSTON (AP)—Like all NFL teams, the Patriots face a variety of unknowns heading into a 2020 season in the midst of the ongoing pandemic.

So it's no surprise Bill Belichick is being coy about his expectations for the quarterback position as his team prepares for the start of training camp.

Assuming he's healthy coming off foot surgery in December, free agent pickup and 2015 MVP Cam Newton would seem the front-runner to win the job over second-year Jarrett Stidham and veteran backup Brian Hoyer as they vie to succeed Tom Brady following his departure to Tampa Bay.

Belichick said the evaluation process hasn't started with no work on the field yet as 80 players began arriving at the team facility this week.

"That spot's the same as all the others on the team," Belichick said Friday during a conference call with reporters. "We've got a long way to go. I can't control how players perform. That's up to them. We'll give everybody an opportunity and we'll see what happens."

Newton was released in March by Carolina, the team he'd been with since being selected as the top draft pick in 2011. His best season was 2015 when he led the Panthers to a 15-1 record in the regular season and an NFC championship. He threw for 3,837 yards and combined for 35 touchdowns en route to earning league MVP honors.

But the foot injury limited him to two games in 2019. That was after a shoulder injury also severely hampered him in 2018.

During a roundtable discussion earlier this month with Odell Beckham Jr., Todd Gurley and Victor Cruz, Newton said that the specter of trying to replace Brady was "the elephant in the room" surrounding his signing. He also acknowledged wondering how "me and Belichick are going to mesh?"

AP

In this Nov. 3, 2019 file photo, New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick, left, looks on as quarterback Tom Brady (12) heads to the bench after a series against the Baltimore Ravens during the first half of an NFL game in Baltimore.

He's attempted to answer by trying to begin the jelling process with existing Patriots players prior to reporting to camp.

Newton has been all over social media in recent weeks while working out with Patriots receivers. A photo posted Friday on Julian Edelman's Instagram page showed Edelman and Newton posing with Patriots receivers Jakobi Meyers, Damiere Byrd, N'Keal Harry and Gunner Olszewski after a workout session.

It's a sign of the kind of desire Newton said he has inside to prove himself to teams that passed on him in free agency.

"You're getting a dog. You're getting one of these ticked-off dogs, too," he said during the roundtable.

Belichick is choosing to start training camp with 80 players instead of 90. Starting with 90 would mean they'd have to break into two practice groups. By staying at 80 he said he can keep everyone together. All teams must cut down to 80 players by Aug. 16.

"We felt like this was the best option for our team, so that's why we did it," Belichick said.

The roster has already taken a hit after six players, including starting linebacker Dont'a Hightower, safety Patrick Chung and tackle Marcus Cannon, opted out of playing the season over concerns about COVID-19. Running back Brandon Bolden, fullback Danny Vitale and offensive lineman Najee Toran also elected to skip the season.

Belichick declined to say if any players had tested positive for coronavirus since they began reporting to camp. But he said the team will adjust as necessary, adding he respects the players who have already decided not to play,

MOTOCROSS

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an awesome track there from 2003 to 2009," Alvarez said.

The CowTown Raceway Park used to host the Saipan Motocross Championships where the island's riders competed against visitors from Guam, Japan, the Philippines, and the U.S.

The revived MRA is looking to get the facility back at the end of the year and plans to build a better track to meet the needs of its growing membership and provide fans a nicer venue where they can enjoy watching the action on raceway.

MARIANAS RACING ASSOCIATION

A rider clears a berm during one of the exhibition races that Marianas Racing Association organized last month in Marpi.

MARIANAS RACING ASSOCIATION

Cuki Alvarez gives final instructions to riders during one of the exhibition races that Marianas Racing Association organized last month in Marpi.

GRASSROOTS

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to have a GKL certificate and to make the course accessible to more people, they will visit clubs if requests are made.

"I believe more coaches can attend if we hold this course within the club," Mita said.

Jessica Ortizo, one of the TanHoldings Football Club coaches who completed the course, was thankful for the opportunity to gain more knowledge about grassroots coaching as she looks forward to working with kids when it's safe to return to the pitch.

"Coaching younger kids is a lot more challenging but at the same time fun. The grassroots course yesterday (last Saturday) made me more aware of the importance of not only being a coach, but also being a good example or role model to young players," said Ortizo, who has three children enrolled in the program.

Mita acknowledged Ortizo and the 11 other participants for their interest in the course, especially at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"NMIFA appreciates the participants for showing passion for soccer even at this time of the pandemic. We thanked them for following the safety guidelines. I believe they got a lot of ideas about coaching grassroots soccer and they will apply them in their club or school once we resume training," Mita said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players work with the ball during a series of drills.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players in the U6 age group line up as they wait for the start of the drills during the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's grassroots event last year at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Lowry scores 33 to lead Raptors over Lakers

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Grassroots soccer program gets boost

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association continues to strengthen its grassroots program, as it had 12 coaches completing the Grassroots Kids Leader Course last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the Grassroots Kids Leader Course show their certificate and pose with course instructors from Northern Mariana Islands Footballl Association last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

According to NMIFA coach Jersh Angeles, who was the course instructor and was assisted by Angie Ito, there were 11 participants from clubs and one from Marianas High School. The course started with an online session from 10am to 12:30pm for the theoretical part, while the practical session took place from 3:30pm to 5:30pm at the NMISTC where coaches also received their certificates.

"Participants sure had fun. They did all the fun drills and game—fun warm-up, fun dribbling drills, and at the end, the small sided game called 'Funnino.' We had discussion after every drills—feedback, comments, and suggestions from the participants were welcomed and we (coaches) provided them the key factors for each drill and the importance of it," Angeles said.

NMIFA technical director and CNMI head coach Michiteru Mita, who observed the practical session of the course and joined the awarding of certificates to participants, said the course is aimed at increasing the number of coaches at the grassroots level.

"We tailored this course to fit more the CNMI grassroots soccer environment. Instructors created fun and interactive environment among participants during the course. It is important for grassroots coaches to have fun with soccer first so they can show kids how fun the sport is. This is an entry level coaching course and provides basic coaching knowledge to parent-coaches and young coaches involved in grassroots soccer. We have an approved AFC (Asian Football Confederation) grassroots charter bronze, so NMIFA will keep on making a strong effort to maintain quality and improve further our grassroots soccer. We need more people who can support and understand our program for our kids," Mita said.

The technical director added that they plan to require coaches in the youth league

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Motocross group sees membership growth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The future of the revived motocross group is looking good, as membership keeps growing.

"Sunday rides are good and getting bigger and bigger every Sunday. There are at least 15 to 20 riders with bikes who practice regularly and the numbers are growing," Marianas Racing Association official Cuki Alvarez said.

MRA holds small exhibition races every weekend at the open field surrounding the former Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi and Alvarez said they expect more riders to join them in the 3:30pm event in the coming months.

"Some people are just waiting for their bikes to be shipped, otherwise we'd have many more (riders)," said Alvarez.

The weekend rides are held to prepare riders for the eventual return of regular races as MRA is working on building a permanent race track through the help of the government

"We are hoping to get CowTown back and are just waiting word from DCCA (Department of Community and Cultural Affairs). There are other areas as well that we were shown, but CowTown seems to be the best place. It's far away from any residential areas and is also big enough for what we need to build our track. As you know, we had

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MARIANAS RACING ASSOCIATION

Two riders go for another lap of the course during one of the exhibition races that Marianas Racing Association organized last month in Marpi.

MARIANAS RACING ASSOCIATION

Riders get ready at the starting line during one of the exhibition races that Marianas Racing Association organized last month in Marpi.